

‘Being a woman sucks’: Sexism in law firms

On the whole, associates who responded to the survey (52 per cent of which were women) thought their firm’s approach to the issue of diversity – including differences related to gender, sexual orientation and age – was fairly good, with two-thirds (66 per cent) rating their employers’ performance at seven out of 10 or more (with one being ‘poor’ and ten being excellent). However, there were indications that women lawyers are still unfairly treated in some firms. One respondent said associates working lives would be improved if there was “serious investment in the careers of young females”, while a female respondent remarked that life at her firm would be better if associates were “not used as paralegals”. Another participant put it more succinctly when she said: “Being a woman sucks.”