



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WOODRUFF-SAWYER & CO. RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

San Francisco, California – February 24, 2009 – Woodruff-Sawyer & Co. was named a winner of the 2008 Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, distinguishing the employer as a leading practitioner of workplace flexibility in San Francisco and across the nation.

The Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility are part of the *When Work Works* project ([www.whenworkworks.org](http://www.whenworkworks.org)), an ongoing initiative of Families and Work Institute, the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce), and the Twiga Foundation. Through *When Work Works*, these partner organizations provide research, resources, and recognition to employers nationwide, and share the results of research on creating effective and flexible workplaces that meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

At Woodruff-Sawyer, the concept of workplace flexibility—so that employees can achieve better work/life balance—is infused in the culture, policies and even their physical worksites:

- **Flextime Policy** – Many employees are on a flex-time schedule which allows them to take every other Friday off. Employees are able to use this time to attend doctor appointments and run necessary weekday errands that would otherwise disrupt their normal workday.
- **Opportunity to Work Remotely** – Headquartered in San Francisco, with satellite offices in the East Bay, South Bay and North Bay. For employees with long or strenuous commutes in this heavy-traffic metropolitan area, they can save time and stress by commuting to these other offices when needed.
- **Supportive Company Culture** – The employee-sponsored Mentoring Committee recently hosted a seminar on ways to strike an effective balance between work life and home life. The purpose of the seminar, led by the Senior Vice President of Human Resources, is to help employees achieve both their professional and personal goals.

The Sloan Awards recognize organizations that are dedicated to making work “work” for both the employer and the employees. Representing employers of all sizes and all types, winners of this prestigious award not only offer excellent workplace flexibility practices, but they also use flexibility as a strategic business tool to enhance organizational effectiveness while also benefiting employees.

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“We believe that helping employees achieve a good work/life balance goes a long way,” said Melody Silberstein, Senior Vice President of Human Resources at Woodruff-Sawyer. “Not only is it a morale booster, it helps to facilitate effectiveness and productivity when employees are at work.”

“Employers must develop new recruitment and retention policies. Unprecedented conditions—a multi-generational workforce, a shrinking labor pool and an increasing demand for skilled workers—dictate that they do so,” said Greg Roth, Senior Manager of Workforce Education Programs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for a Competitive Workforce.

Applications for the Alfred P. Sloan Awards were open to organizations with more than 10 employees that had been in business for at least one year. Applicants were evaluated in a rigorous two-step process, first comparing the employer’s application to nationally representative data from Families and Work Institute’s *National Study of Employers*, and then corroborating the employer responses through a survey of employees. Woodruff-Sawyer has nearly 300 employees throughout California and Oregon.

For more information about *When Work Works* or the Alfred P. Sloan Awards, please contact Shanny Peer at (212) 465-2044 x 217 or at [speer@familiesandwork.org](mailto:speer@familiesandwork.org).

[About Woodruff-Sawyer & Co.](#)

Woodruff-Sawyer is one of the largest independent insurance brokerage firms in the nation, and is an active partner of Assurex Global and International Benefits Network. For over 90 years, Woodruff-Sawyer has been partnering with clients to implement and manage cost-effective and innovative insurance, employee benefits and risk management solutions, both nationally and abroad. Headquartered in San Francisco, Woodruff-Sawyer has offices throughout California and in Portland, Oregon.

For more information about Woodruff-Sawyer, call 415.391.2141 or visit [www.wsandco.com](http://www.wsandco.com).

[About When Work Works](#)

When Work Works is a nationwide initiative to highlight the importance of workforce effectiveness and workplace flexibility as strategies to enhance businesses’ competitive advantage in the global economy and yield positive business results. When Work Works is a project of Families and Work Institute in partnership with the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Twiga Foundation, with funding provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

For more information, visit [www.whenworkworks.org](http://www.whenworkworks.org).

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