

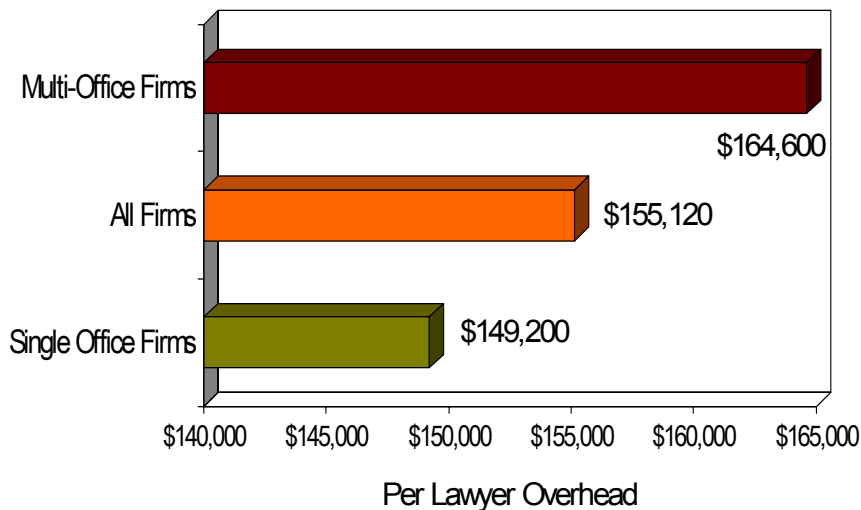
MINING THE SURVEYS: COSTS OF BRANCH OFFICES

by Ward Bower

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Operating branch offices costs money — but how much?

One indication is the difference between average, per lawyer overhead in multiple office firms versus that in single-office firms. Data in the 2002 Altman Weil *Survey of Law Firm Economics* show multi-office firms spend approximately 10% more, per lawyer, on support staff, occupancy, equipment, reference materials, promotion, malpractice and other non-personnel insurance costs, office supplies and other expenses than do single office firms. Much of the differential is due to the need to employ redundant resources (receptionists, IT personnel, etc.), to increased communication costs and to required duplicative facilities (conference rooms, libraries, etc.).



Source: 2002 Altman Weil Survey of Law Firm Economics