



Profile in Passion – Neith Gort

Her name, Neith, is that of an early Egyptian deity who was said to be the first and the prime creator, the one who created the universe and all it contains, and who governs how it functions. Our Neith Gort was born in Havana, Cuba and has created a life she could only imagine and a 16-year career of public service at the State Attorney's Office.

"I came to the United States in 2002 when I was 14 years old," she said. "My father was already in the United States, and he filed a petition for me to come. When I did, I came alone and left my mother behind."

Her new life in Miami began as she became a freshman at Barbara Goleman Senior High School from where she later graduated. Learning a new language and culture opened her eyes to many opportunities. Neith that that she would go into the business world though her mother thought otherwise. "I remember when I was a child, mom saying that I was going to be an attorney, but I can't remember why."

“When I graduated from high school, I began attending a tech school to earn my Associate in Arts (AA) degree in Business Administration. For a time, I had worked two jobs, so I was looking for an office job while I finished my degree.”

Neith had a family friend who worked at the State Attorney’s Office who recommended that she apply for a job there. “I applied and six months later, I was hired.” It was a government job that offered stability and the ability to go to school at night.”

In 2007, only five years after coming to this country, Neith began in a Clerk I position in the mailroom. Working in the mailroom allowed her to really learn about the SAO and how it worked. “Imagine coming from Cuba - I had no idea what a State Attorney’s Office was or what it did.”

About a year later, Neith was promoted to Legal Secretary I in the Felony Division. Around this time, she completed her studies but didn’t pursue a future in business “because I loved what I was doing at the SAO.”

“As a Legal Secretary, I handled three division attorneys. I would prep the court calendars daily and would make requests for them for their cases,” Neith explains. “This is where I learned how to put a case together.”

Being in that position for about a year and a half gave her the skills and confidence to apply for and be promoted to a Trial Coordinator position. There, she worked with Felony Division Chiefs on homicide cases. “That is where I got interested in homicides. I liked the involvement of reviewing

case files, working with the attorneys, going to trial, and most of all, helping the families.”

“As a Trial Coordinator, you must learn the cases as well as the attorneys do. It is very interesting to be involved in cases all through the process of the criminal justice system.”

Neith remembers a case that she worked on with now Judge Meisha Darrough and Gail Levine as second chair. “It was a death penalty case that was particularly memorable because the victim miraculously survived and testified. That Defendant is now serving life in prison.”

A few years after becoming a Trial Coordinator, Neith became Lead Worker in the Felony Division where she was responsible for training new hires and helping the Felony Supervisors.

Though she was successful and happy in that position, in 2016 a new opportunity would lead her to the position that would bring together her analytic skills and her passion for seeking justice.

“In 2016, the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative (GVI) unit was created. I had never worked in a specialized unit and wanted to try something new, so I applied. I became the Legal Secretary for GVI under now Judge Frank Ledee who briefed me on how things were going to run and how cases were to be processed. Initially, the unit was mainly doing investigations on cases. Attorneys were on call and would get called out and take it from

there. Now, the unit has expanded into various areas of Miami-Dade County and into both proactive as well as reactive operations.”

Neith was able to look into the needs of the unit and created her own way to work out cases, mapping them and learning how to capture, analyze and present statistics of the team’s cases and efforts.

“I am now the GVI Paralegal and have a Legal Secretary working with me. As Paralegal III, I can assist the GVI prosecutors and law enforcement who are on the scene of a gun violence crime. For example, when they need a subpoena for video or any records, I can send it to them electronically so they can serve it on the spot and obtain that evidence which may strengthen the case.”

“Neith has always exuded competence and authority in all her tasks during her career at the SAO,” says State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. “We are never surprised, but always appreciative, of her exceptional work ethic, her professional knowledge of all our work resources, and her strong relationship with detectives, investigators, and law enforcement contacts with our office. She has a willingness to help anyone – and when she does, you feel confident that it will be done to the highest quality and thoroughness. I have noticed over the years and to this day that many ASAs seek out her assistance knowing of her capability of handling their request competently.”

Part of the process that Neith implemented begins when she reviews the memorandums known as Major’s Memos that are submitted by police

departments when they go out to a homicide. It has all the information of what occurred and what they were able to find out. Neith looks at the Memo and runs the prior criminal history of the individuals named. By doing this, she can find connections between the subject, victim, witnesses, etc. “I create folders for the subject(s) where I file this information. We can see how those in the case are connected or involved with each other. Sometimes I come across names that are familiar to me from other cases and I cross reference them. I notify detectives and pass on leads and connections that can help the investigations.”

This work is incredibly valuable as it saves time and provides a more comprehensive view of what may be taking place. She also helps locate records and witnesses even in other states. This makes Neith a great point of contact for police officers and their departments.

Neith also does National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) processing. NIBIN is the only national network that allows for the capture and comparison of ballistic evidence to aid in solving and preventing violent crimes involving firearms. “When I get a NIBIN hit, I find connections on police reports of weapons, defendants, victims, guns, etc.”

Neith’s process goes beyond the work expected of her position and is more in line of what is considered crime analysis. These connections and information that she finds can make the difference between being able to file a case and bring justice, or not.

Though she has had the possibility to be promoted to other positions, Neith has chosen to stay in this job that fulfills her passion. “I love my unit because every day you learn something new.”

Besides being fulfilled professionally, Neith assures that her career at SAO has allowed her not only to make a difference but has also allowed for her to balance this with a fulfilling personal life. She is married to a police officer and is very happy to be a baseball mom to her two sons. “My job allows me to manage my personal time.”

For Neith, working at SAO has been an unexpected opportunity to lead a life of public service. “It has been an incredible journey. I recommend a career at the SAO to anyone who feels that they want to help the community and have work-life balance. Working here is a great job.”

Thank you Neith, for being part of the Best Team in America! We recognize and appreciate your passion and dedication to our community.