



**Catherine Cothran Nigra** is the Forensic Quality Assurance Manager at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, a role she has excelled in since 2016. With over two decades of experience in forensic science, she is highly regarded for her expertise in quality management and DNA analysis.

In her current position, Ms. Nigra manages the quality system of the PBSO Crime Laboratory, ensuring compliance with international and national standards. Her responsibilities include overseeing the Quality Assurance Unit, managing information systems and grants, and ensuring quality across various forensic disciplines, including biology, crime scene investigation, firearms, fire debris, friction ridge analysis, seized drugs, and toxicology. Previously, as a Senior Forensic Scientist, she was involved in method validation, training, and the development of essential forensic tools and protocols.

Ms. Nigra's leadership extends to several professional organizations. She is an active member of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) and has held various roles within the Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (AFQAM), including President. She also contributes to the National DNA Index System (NDIS) Audit Review Panel and serves as a Technical Assessor for the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB).

Her contributions to the field are highlighted by numerous presentations on topics such as the Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK), DNA for the Defense Bar, and Quality Management. Ms. Nigra remains committed to specialized training and professional development, continually advancing the standards of forensic science.