

BY STEVE GARMHAUSEN | CORRESPONDENT

WHEN DIGITAL FORENSICS Firm Stroz Friedberg LLC chose Dallas two years ago as the home of its first Southwest office, it had a lot to do with the fact that Erin Nealy Cox called the city home.

Shortly after the announcement that Nealy Cox would run the new office and forensics lab, company co-founder Ed Stroz praised her background and skills — and described her choice to join the firm as a gift from above.

Nealy Cox certainly is a huge asset for Stroz Friedberg. She has the Dallas office off to a strong start, despite its inception in the brutal fall of 2008 and the company's lack of name recognition in the region.

"Stroz Friedberg is fairly well-known on the East and West coasts, but to people down here we sound like a law firm," she says with a laugh.

Running one of Stroz Friedberg's nine offices in the United States and the United Kingdom is impressive enough—and it's notable that she is the only woman doing so. But Nealy Cox is also an executive managing director and deputy general counsel for Stroz Friedberg. On top of that, she is in charge of firmwide marketing.

Nealy Cox's success is not surprising given a pattern of accomplishments over the course of her career: Not yet 40 years old, she has enjoyed success as an attorney

for a large law firm and as a federal computer crimes prosecutor in Washington, D.C., and Dallas.

By the time she left the Department of Justice, she was its computer hacking and intellectual property coordinator, having learned the field inside and out in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks.

Today, Nealy Cox works in the private sector world of computer forensics, technology and cybercrime response. Traveling throughout Texas and around the world, she and her team chase computer hackers, conduct sensitive internal investigations for *Fortune* 500 clients and help corporations plug data breaches.

One of the adjustments Nealy Cox has had to make after jumping back to the private sector was to act as her clients' trusted adviser. "It's not something I did as a federal prosecutor," she says. "I had to learn it, and it's become something that's very satisfying about my job."

In fact, thinking over her clients' predicaments is one of the things that keeps her up at night. "Our job is to give them the best advice to get through a crisis," she says.

GARMHAUSEN is an Austin-based freelance writer.

BUSINESS: Digital forensics | **HEADQUARTERS:** 2101 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 1250, Dallas 75225 | **OWNERSHIP:** Private | **EMPLOYEES:** 12 (local), 200 (total) | **ANNUAL REVENUE:** N/A
WEB: www.strozfriedberg.com

