

## PRO BONO CORNER

### *Pro Se Clinic* Volunteer Spotlight: Linda Coco and Barry Law Students

By Alexis Leventhal



Linda E. Coco  
Associate Professor of Law  
Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law

53 hours.

This is how much time Professor Linda Coco volunteered to the *Pro Se Clinic* in the Orlando Division in 2015—far and above any other single volunteer. Professor Coco, overseeing a group of her dedicated bankruptcy students, commits to counseling *pro se* litigants every week. Her efforts are deeply appreciated not only by the individuals she counsels, but by the students who benefit from this practical exercise, as well as by all the Judges in the Middle District. With over 20% of all filings done *pro se*, Professor Coco’s contributions to assisting these parties are critical to the efficient handling of these cases.

Student volunteer, Thomas Edens, “absolutely loved” his experience in the *Pro Se Clinic* with Professor Coco because of the opportunity to work with “real people who have real problems” and get “great experience going over schedules and identifying common issues.” Thomas’s sentiments are echoed by fellow student volunteer, Jackie LaVerne, who says “Professor Coco always finds a way to assist clients in the best way possible. She is great at comforting clients, as well as giving them the straight forward legal advice that they need. Not only does Professor Coco help the clients, but she empowers students to help clients as well.”

In addition to her service in the *Pro Se Clinic*, Professor Coco is the resident Bankruptcy Professor at Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law. She also teaches Commercial Law, Civil Procedure, and a Bankruptcy Practice Ready course at Barry.

Thank you, Professor Coco, for your commitment to serving *pro se* parties in the Middle District!