From the Dean

The legal field continues to be one of the most fulfilling careers, as it allows individuals to make a difference in their communities and the world. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Florida State University College of Law, where students are encouraged to engage in public service and community-building activities. "I have been fortunate to see the impact that our students have made through their dedication to public service," said Dean Elizabeth A. Warren.

One of the most notable alumni is Alvan Balent, Jr., who recently retired from his position as general counsel for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, after serving for 23 years. Balent has been an active member of the community, serving as a general magistrate and assisting with Marchman Act proceedings. In the 10 years since he graduated from FSU Law, Balent considers himself exceptional in his profession.

Similarly, Sam Spellman, P.A., an alumnus from the class of 2019, has been working in the legal field for the past five years. Spellman has worked on issues related to substance abuse treatment and whistle-blower issues, and has assisted with the preparation of legislation before the Judiciary Committee.

"I have had many fulfilling experiences in my career," Spellman said. "Some of the most satisfying have been being a general magistrate and most recently being selected as a general magistrate. I have also had the opportunity to work on legislation to improve the delivery of mental health services, which I believe is an important issue.""