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New lawyers to aid low-income clients

By LISEL NOWAK
Daily Progress staff writer

Fully funded by public-interest fellowships, three new lawyers are joining the Charlottesville-based Legal Aid Justice Center as advocates for children, immigrant workers and day laborers.

Charisa Smith, Erin Trodden and Seok H. "Daniel" Choi this fall will become part of a staff that works around the state to provide legal services to low-income families and low-wage workers.

"It's an extraordinary gift to us and to our client community," the center's executive director, Alex Gulotta, said.

"I'm not sure that any legal-aid program in the country has landed three of these fellowships in one year. It's a testament to the work

that we're doing that we would attract these candidates."

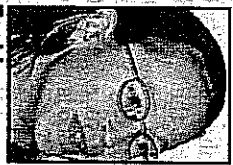
Smith, a 2005 graduate of Yale Law School, will work at the Justice Center's Richmond office in the center's JustChildren program, focusing on helping children reintegrate into their communities after being released from juvenile detention.

The Arthur Liman Program, which supports the work of Yale law students and graduates, will cover Smith's salary for one year. Smith is currently clerking for a federal judge in New Jersey.

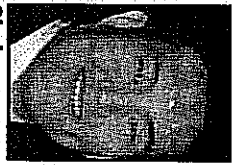
According to JustChildren Director Andy Block, Smith will build on the work that the program has been doing to establish regulations that help ensure children have immediate access to education and mental health



Smith



Trodden



Choi

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