

AHMED, from page 8

going relatively well. They all worked together to help provide for the household, including Ahmed. But while working at Walmart, she found out she was pregnant.

Ahmed was terrified and tried to hide it from her parents as long as she could, but her mom sensed something was different right away. After weeks of avoiding her family, she finally had a tumultuous confrontation with her mother, in which Ahmed admitted she was carrying a child. Her mother immediately started planning a wedding and, as it seemed, the rest of her future.

"I started getting ticked off and thinking that was wrong," Ahmed said. "(Sometimes) Islamic people are more concerned (with other) people. So, they care about their community more than they care about their child."

Ahmed felt like she was being unfairly punished for her pregnancy, especially because she had never had a conversation about safe sex or how to prevent pregnancy. And since she was committed to bringing her baby to term, even out of wedlock, her home life became volatile. Ahmed sensed that her own parents' fears of being exiled from their community trumped concerns of her and her baby's wellbeing. One night, five months before her due date, she packed up all of her things in an old Honda and left. Her family, including her closest brother, stopped talking to her.

"I was scared all the time and crying," she said. "I got depression – the way lowest depression. I did not have any food stamps or TANF, but I had saved \$2,000 from taxes."

Ahmed felt hopeless, but her story and news of her search for housing soon spread throughout the Ontario area by word of mouth among nonprofits and church groups. Eventually, a couple that owned a farm in the nearby town of Adrian offered her a place to live rent-free.

"I don't like to rely on someone," she said. "I like to just keep going and be responsible for my own stuff. But I just needed some assistance, and the rest I would do on my own."

On Aug. 10, 2017, Ahmed welcomed her son, Giovanni, into the world. Even as she remains committed to positive thinking, she is honest about her difficulty working through shame and the pain that her fractured family relationship has brought.

Ahmed and Giovanni are still living with the couple who offered them shelter, and she remains grateful for their generosity and perspective. She hopes and trusts that one day her own family will come back together, united, without any fear.

"I was the person who stood up for (herself) and kept the innocent child and learned from mistakes," she said. "I want to tell the Arabic females I'm still surviving. I didn't die. If something like that happens to you, (you) don't have to get scared. I know there's a chance you might lose your (place) in that community, but whatever you do, do it for God – not for people."

ROTH, from page 4

appreciative, so overall it's been pretty positive. I haven't heard from Justice Kavanaugh himself, but he has my contact info and is more than welcome to reach out.

A.G.: *How long do you plan to keep the domain as it is?*

G.R.: I don't know. I haven't really gotten there yet. Right now the .com, .org and .net are all going to the We Believe Survivors site. There's a good chance that if, whoever the next nominee is, whether Trump or a Democratic president nominates him or her, that I'll be able to use the URL to focus it on court transparency issues. Hopefully not issues like the ones in the last nomination. But for now, this is going to stay up for a little while, and as with anything in this administration, who knows what happens next?

A.G.: *What are your hopes for both what happens with the domain and how this all connects to Fix the Court?*

G.R.: One of the main takeaways of the

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GABE ROTH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIX THE COURT

last three months is just how opaque the process of confirming a justice to a lifetime appointment has been. We've only seen 7 percent – despite the fact that I've had to sue the federal government just to even get a handful of documents from Kavanaugh's time in the White House and in the Office of Independent Counsel – we've only seen 7 percent of the documents he produced during that time in the public sector, which is laughable.

STALLWORTH, from page 7

photo together. As the Polaroid was taken, Stallworth quickly threw his arm around Duke.

"(I) wanted to have a photo that clearly indicated that I was in the moment with this fool," Stallworth said.

He no longer has the photo.

"It's been lost for years," he said.

The investigation was abruptly shut down in 1979 when the chapter of the Klan that was under investigation attempted to make Stallworth its leader. Stallworth said he would like to have seen it through to the end.

"We didn't get to an ultimate conclusion," Stallworth said. "I would like to have seen how far we could have gone," Stallworth said. "We'll never know."

Duke also left the Klan that year for unrelated reasons and formed the National Association for the Advancement of White People.

The two didn't speak again for nearly 40 years, until Duke called Stallworth out of concern for how he was going to be portrayed in Spike Lee's adaptation of his

book, "BlacKkKlansman."

"We talked for an hour, about a variety of things," Stallworth said. "He said he was not a racist and a white supremacist in spite of endorsing Trump, who is."

"He said Trump's not a racist or white supremacist because what he's doing to keep minorities out is to help preserve white culture and white heritage," Stallworth said. "That's just one of the things; there was a lot."

Unlike the times they spoke during the investigation, Stallworth said he was able to push back against Duke's rhetoric.

"Every chance I got, I did," Stallworth said. Duke told Street Roots that Stallworth's book was inaccurate and that the movie it was adapted into was

"nothing more than a lie." He also said he never used racial epithets in public or private conversations with Stallworth.

"I believe that anybody oppressing others, enslaving others, harming others is evil," Duke said. "And I'm opposed to it."

Stallworth said he doesn't think much of Duke one way or the other.

"David Duke is just another man to me," Stallworth said. "He was just another

"It's the norm now for white supremacists to claim their views in a political guise, and that political guise is in sync with that of conservative Republicans. The two are united, and one gives cover to the other."

RON STALLWORTH

subject of an investigation. I didn't give him any special credence one way or the other."

Today, Stallworth said, the most powerful white supremacist lives in the White House.

"Donald Trump is a bigoted, racist, white supremacist," Stallworth said. "People know it, but there's a certain segment of our society – namely the Republican Party – that provides him cover to be a bigoted, racist, white supremacist and not call him out on it."

Republicans, Stallworth said, have "lost the moral compass."

"America has lost the moral compass, too," he said, adding that Donald Trump should be nowhere near the White House. "America screwed up two years ago and allowed him to get into that office."

The country is now paying a price for electing Trump, Stallworth said.

"We're going to have to live with it until we can right this wrong," he said.

Spike Lee's version of his story hit the big screen earlier this year.

Stallworth said Lee did a "remarkable job" of encapsulating the historical threads "from the Confederacy to Charlottesville, and David Duke and Donald Trump."

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