



Claire McKinney Public Relations, LLC

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“A sharp tale of government and terrorism fortified by an exceptional POTUS protagonist.”
– *Kirkus on Presidential Conclusions*

“This in-depth story of a powerful conservative feminist brings a figment of the imagination alive to a degree of vividness rarely seen in a fiction debut...[a] near-perfect plot.”
–*ForeWord Reviews (Presidential Intentions)*

PRESIDENTIAL CONCLUSIONS

Book 3 in the Samantha Harrison Trilogy

By Douglas J. Wood

After a long and arduous journey to the White House, Samantha Harrison (R-Va) has been elected President of the United States of America.

In *Presidential Conclusions* (Release date April 3, 2017; ISBN 9781537590622; Trade Paperback; Price \$15.99), Douglas J. Wood’s third and final book in his politically-charged trilogy, Samantha Harrison is faced with her greatest challenge yet: how to keep a splintered nation together in the face of unprecedented fear. *Presidential Declarations* saw Republican nominee Samantha defeated by Hillary Clinton for the presidency. To her surprise, Clinton selected Samantha to be Secretary of State and when Clinton was almost killed in a Washington, D.C. terrorist plot made Samantha Clinton’s temporary presidential placeholder. After the U.S. experienced a taste of a Harrison presidency, the voters chose her over Clinton in the 2020 Presidential Election.

Although victorious with her win, Samantha has taken over the position during a tumultuous and chaotic time when relations with other countries are delicate, and the leader of Iran has called for jihad against the US, Russia, and Great Britain. After being so close to a Democratic president, citizens and senators alike question Samantha’s loyalty to the Republican party while world leaders are tempted to brush her aside as a weak leader. Worse, there is a locally-grown terroristic plot brewing across the nation.

Samantha's focus during this turbulent time is to not divide the country any further, and she calls upon past presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Hillary Clinton to show bipartisanship in the fight against terrorism. International leaders have their own political agendas and deals to make with Sam, including Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Events grow confused when the locally-grown terrorists time their explosions in cities spanning from coast to coast during a nation-wide test of the emergency alert system, causing a system overload and temporary media blackout. Will Samantha be able to keep the nation together as everything seems to fall apart?

Ripped from today's headlines and full of imagined conversations with real politicians, ***Presidential Conclusions*** is a political thriller with unpredictable twists. As Samantha Harrison takes her place as leader of the free world, her dilemmas give readers a taste of the difficult decisions politicians must make and the resulting marks they leave on American history.

About the Author

Douglas J. Wood has spent over 35 years practicing law. He is a senior partner at Reed Smith LLP, and through his practice has seen politics at its best and its worst. He is the author of *Presidential Intentions*, *Presidential Declarations*, and nonfiction books *101 Things I Want to Say: The Collection* and *Please Be Ad-Vised: A Legal Reference Guide for the Advertising Executive*. He currently lives in New Jersey, works in New York, has been happily married for over 44 years, and is the proud parent to three grown children.

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About Douglas J. Wood, Author of *Presidential Conclusions*

Douglas J. Wood has practiced law for more than thirty-five years, and is a senior partner at Reed Smith LLP. He is the author of three novels chronicling the political life of the first woman to run for President of the United States: *Presidential Intentions*, *Presidential Declarations*, and *Presidential Conclusions*, which is the final book in the trilogy that releases in April 2017.

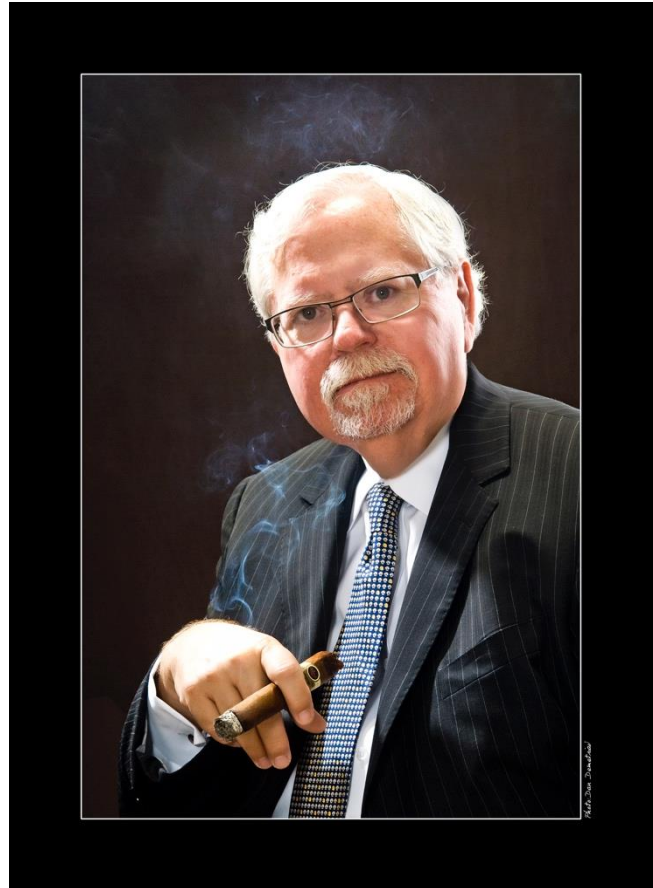
Other books include *Please Be Ad-Vised*, a lead trade book on advertising law; and *101 Things I Want to Say...The Collection*, a book of parental advice addressing the “letting go” phases of child-rearing.

Wood has three law degrees and is a frequent speaker, writer, and media commentator on the First Amendment, e-commerce, media, entertainment, advertising, and marketing law. Wood

serves as legal adviser to several worldwide trade organizations and is General Counsel to the Association of National Advertisers, the Advertising Research Foundation, and the Advertising Council. He is chief negotiator for the United States advertising industry in labor relations and collective bargaining opposite SAG-AFTRA and the AFofM for the union agreements covering performers in television and radio commercials.

Wood is listed among the leading global specialists in advertising law in Chambers and the Legal 500 (2007 – 2013); selected for inclusion in the 2007 – 2013 editions of The Best Lawyers in America in the specialty of advertising law, and was their Lawyer of the Year in 2013 for advertising law; and in the 2007 – 2013 editions of Super Lawyers.

Douglas J. Wood currently lives in New Jersey and works in New York City. He is happily married for over 44 years, and is the proud parent to three grown children.



A Conversation with Douglas J. Wood, Author of Presidential Conclusions

Why did you decide to write a three-book series about a Republican woman running for president of the United States? How did the idea come to you?

The idea came to me in 1998 while flying to California on business. It was years before Hillary Clinton would make a run at the presidency, but her name was already being bandied around by the press as the political frontrunner for the “first woman president.”

I believed then that we would eventually have a woman as president, and it got me thinking about the prospect. If it isn't Hillary Clinton, where on the political food chain might her best competition be? And even more intriguing for me was the idea that we could see a political campaign with two women running for president. All those ideas eventually led to Samantha Harrison and the cast of characters around her. I picked it up and put it down hundreds of times until I saw Hillary Clinton get as far as she did in 2008. It occurred to me that Republicans had no woman candidate that had any chance of beating Hillary Clinton. I wanted to invent someone with a chance, but who was as flawed as any politician.

As President of the United States, which past president's morals, ideals, and stances on issues does Samantha Harrison align with the most? How?

Samantha is not, per se, identified with any particular past president. If I had to characterize her, I'd say she's a combination of Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. Both were flawed yet both found a way to work with the opposition, balance budgets, and keep the country safe. Reagan had to work with Tip O'Neal and Ted Kennedy. Clinton had to work with Newt Gingrich. A cast of characters who could not have been more divisive at times and opposite in viewpoints. Yet it essentially worked. Each approached the challenges differently as so many leaders do. But they got their jobs done.

Throughout the series, Samantha meets with Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Hillary Clinton (who, in your novels, is president in 2016). She also has conversations with world leaders like Vladimir Putin. Why did you decide to use these real politicians in your novel? What was your thought process behind their conversations?

My goal was to write a plausible story that included real people and events. That made it believable. I want readers to believe the story was as much reality as it was fiction; I tried to remain true to historical facts and individual views expressed by living politicians. While I exercised creative freedom with some dialog, many of the quotes are verbatim from the real characters. When I gave them words, I tried to keep to their public and private personas. At times I speculated, but always with an eye to accurately reflecting who they were.

What kind of research did you have to do for these books? As a lawyer for over 35 years, was writing Samantha's court scenes difficult or easy?

Research was key. Writing is not easy, particularly creative fiction. I wanted to be certain what I presented as fact was unassailable. If I failed in that respect, the core integrity of the story would suffer. So my research was extensive and included talks with countless people who lived in the real world of politics, terrorism, and law. I spoke with prosecutors, military officers (both U.S. and foreign), politicians, policy wonks, weapons and aircraft specialists, Guantanamo commandants, scientists, doctors, and more. I thoroughly researched every location, visiting those I could legally visit, and meticulously checked and double-checked facts.

As a lawyer who works in New York City and lives in New Jersey, what made you decide to make Samantha Harrison a presidential candidate from Virginia?

This one's simple. I needed a state that had capital punishment so I could realistically address the conflict Samantha faced as a prosecutor and governor. I also wanted a state on the East Coast with a rich history in politics. Virginia was a natural choice.

Are any of the people in the books based off people you know or have met?

Yes, but I'll never let anyone know who!

What's next for Douglas J. Wood as an author? Will we ever see Samantha Harrison again?

Maybe. Or perhaps her daughter, Amanda, will be next to write history. She has grown from a combative daughter to the precipice of true leadership. Richard Haddad, the CIA operative, is also an interesting character. He's a Muslim and a patriot, yet unconventional. Their stories create fascinating possibilities and intersections.

Who are your favorite authors? Did any of them inspire you as a writer?

I'm a big reader, both for work and recreation. I like all kinds of fiction and non-fiction books. When it comes to fiction, I enjoy a good mystery...especially if woven with legal, espionage, or ethical drama. My favorite novelists are Tom Clancy, John Grisham, Robert Ludlum, William Manchester and Michael Crichton. I am also inspired by my good friend and fellow author, Michael Hicks Thompson, a great mystery writer. They all gave me the courage to try.

We know in the third book, *Presidential Conclusions*, that Samantha runs and wins the Presidential Election in 2020. Have you ever thought of running for public office?

Who would vote for me!? For me, politics is a spectator sport. I'd rather stay in the bleachers and enjoy the show rather than be hit with a bean ball.

