Transcript of Hanna Greenwood Interview with Senate Hopeful John Justice Wheeler March 20, 2004

Atlantis Cable News correspondent Hanna Greenwood spoke to Senate hopeful John Justice Wheeler at his home recently in preparation for a piece on his upcoming election campaign. Per ACN standard procedure, the full interview has been transcribed for our online archives.

HANNA GREENWOOD: Mr. Wheeler, thank you so much for welcoming me into your home.

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: No trouble at all. And please, Hanna, call me Jack – you and I know each other too well for such formalities.

HANNA GREENWOOD: Indeed, Jack. It's been too long since we were both back in our old stomping grounds.

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: We've each come a long way from when we called Twin Peaks home.

HANNA GREENWOOD: No denying that. You're considered a real contender for one of Washington's two U.S. Senate seats in the fall. That's an impressive feat.



John Justice Wheeler

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: Well, let's not get ahead of ourselves. This is a marathon, not a sprint. And there are some other very qualified candidates in the field who are sure to give me a run for my money. Right now I'm still focusing on my position as Attorney General for the great state of Washington.

HANNA GREENWOOD: That's as good a segue as any – let's talk about money. You got your start as a corporate fixer, someone who would bring multi-million dollar corporations back from the brink of bankruptcy and turn everything around for a profit. And you did quite well for yourself in the process. An unusual start to the career path of a politician, wouldn't you say?

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: Perhaps. The keys to my success as a young man in the corporate world were patience, doggedness, and knowing when to take the big risk. I like to think I've utilized those same traits to aid my work in the justice system and in helping the people I've served.

HANNA GREENWOOD: Of course, your first forays into the justice system were entirely unofficial, were they not?

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: You are referring to my events in Twin Peaks fifteen years ago, I take it?

HANNA GREENWOOD: That's right. You became something of a local hero after all was said and done. People say you saved a lot of lives in the process.

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: People like to exaggerate, but I do stand by the work we did. Without our efforts, things could have gotten a lot worse.

HANNA GREENWOOD: The 'we' you refer to would include Harry Truman, longtime sheriff of Twin Peaks, and ex-convict Hank Jennings?

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: That's right. Bit of a ragtag trio were we, but you never can tell who's going to make a difference in this world. The work the three of us started, I think that's where I first became interested in the justice system, in righting the systemic wrongs rampant in our society. Thanks to my middle name, some have even said I'd been denying my true calling all those years in the business world.

HANNA GREENWOOD: And quite the illustrious career you've built for yourself in that field. Though in some ways that's almost ironic, given the laws the three of you skirted fifteen years ago?

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: The prosecutor in me would interject here with, 'Facts not in evidence, Your Honor.'

HANNA GREENWOOD: Interfering with an active DEA investigation. Illegal police operations across the border in Canada. Are you denying any of this? And people like to tout the lives you saved, but what about the ones that were lost along the way?

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: Hanna, I thought we'd come to an understanding on the parameters of this interview.

HANNA GREENWOOD: Jack, you know me too well by now to really think I'd color between the lines. Especially not when it comes to uncovering the truth.

JOHN JUSTICE WHEELER: I'm afraid I'll have to—



Audrey Horne Wheeler

AUDREY HORNE WHEELER: This interview is over.

HANNA GREENWOOD: Now hold on, your husband and I had an agreement—

AUDREY HORNE WHEELER: And you broke it. As Mr. Wheeler's campaign manager, I'm putting a stop to this.

HANNA GREENWOOD: Now Audrey, there's no reason to be rash. We're just talking here.

AUDREY HORNE WHEELER: You willingly agreed to forego any discussion of Jack's work with the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Department prior to his work in the justice system.

HANNA GREENWOOD: Perhaps we can come to an agreement on expanding the scope of our interview then?

AUDREY HORNE WHEELER: Over my dead body.