

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 29, 2016**

**SISTERS IN CRIME HONORED BY MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA  
WITH THE RAVEN AWARD**

At the 70th Annual Edgar Awards Banquet on April 28, 2016, Sisters in Crime was awarded a Raven Award from Mystery Writers of America. The Raven Award recognizes outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing.

“Sisters in Crime is thrilled with this award, honoring nearly thirty years of work in the trenches, promoting the advancement, recognition, and professional development of women crime writers,” said Sisters in Crime President Leslie Budewitz. “That it comes from one of our partners in crime and advocacy makes the honor doubly sweet.”

Also honored by Mystery Writers of America at this year’s Edgar Awards were Ellery Queen Award Recipient Janet Rudolph, and a second Raven Award recipient Margaret Kinsman, and 2016 Grand Master Walter Mosley.

Mystery Writers of America recognized Sisters in Crime as the organization approaches its 30th anniversary. At the 1986 Bouchercon World Mystery Convention in Baltimore, Sara Paretsky convened an initial meeting of woman writers who were concerned about increasing graphic violence against women in mysteries and a lack of equity in review, award nominations, advances, and other measures of a writer’s success. The following year during the Edgars Week, a group of woman writers met in Sandra Scoppettone’s SoHo loft for breakfast and formed Sisters in Crime. Initial steering committee members included Charlotte MacLeod, Kate Mattes, Betty Francis, Dorothy Salisbury Davis, Sara Paretsky, Nancy Pickard and Susan Dunlap.

*Sisters in Crime is an organization dedicated to promoting the ongoing advancement, recognition and professional development of women crime writers. It has 3,600 members in 50 chapters worldwide, offering networking advice and support to mystery authors.*

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