



January 3, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to offer an enthusiastic message to communicate Marisa Crame's exceptional work on behalf of the Work and Family Researchers Network.

Marisa helped the WFRN successfully organize five conferences. She has been (and continues to be) a forceful advocate for our organization, providing much needed advice on how to manage the cancellation of our 2020 event in the wake of the Covid pandemic. At all times she worked as a fierce advocate on our behalf. She secured much more favorable arrangements than we would have been able to achieve without her efforts and guidance.

Especially important to the WFRN has been Marisa's expertise on negotiation strategies, providing us with seasoned guidance that helped anticipate the inclinations of hotel representatives and strategies on how best to respond to their demands. As I write this letter, we are currently working with Marisa to renegotiate an event in 2022, as Covid continues to cast uncertainty in the entire planning process. Any successes we achieve will be attributable to her efforts.

We have been so fortunate to have her on our team and recommend her services most highly.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Sweet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Stephen Sweet, Ph.D.  
Executive Officer

26 July 2016

I am writing to both acknowledge and commend the important work performed by Marisa Crame, Senior Director, Global Accounts at Helms Briscoe, for the Association of Black Sociologists. I am the Executive Officer of the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS) – a non-profit international professional organization of sociologists, social scientists, and social and political activists founded by women and men of African descent. The organization's mission is to build a tradition of scholarship that will serve Black people/communities in perpetuity and to create a powerful network of scholars who can be a direct catalyst for change in African American communities throughout the Diaspora and global communities of color. Growing out of the unrest and exclusionary practices in major professional organizations in the 1960s, ABS began as a Caucus of Black Sociologists within the American Sociological Association. From that time, through our incorporation as a professional organization in 1971, until today, we have grown as a strong professional organization, with members domestically, in the Caribbean and the UK, that gives voice to often marginalized scholars as well as to academic and non-academic social and political activists; we also publish a well-respected academic refereed journal: *Issues in Race & Society: An International Interdisciplinary Journal*.

As the Executive Officer of ABS, my many responsibilities include visiting various properties as potential sites to host our annual conference (AKA site visits). This is an important responsibility and involves a rigorous and systematic review of potential conference sites in various cities, contacting strategic sales persons at these sites, arranging a site visit and travelling to these properties, assessing the viability of a site for our annual meeting and its accommodations for our membership, making a recommendation to the ABS executive committee as to which property best meets our needs, and then negotiating and signing a contract and working with property representatives throughout until the end of our annual conference meeting. In selecting sites for our annual conference we have high standards which include our expectation that the site upholds fair labor standards and the highest level of environmental standards; have a clear commitment to diversity; have clean, spacious and adaptable meeting rooms to accommodate our meeting needs; offer a reasonable group rate to accommodate our membership which range from graduate students to retired professionals with varying economic resources.

Marisa Crame has done an outstanding job assisting me with this important responsibility. New to the role and responsibilities of Executive Officer and almost immediately confronted with having to move our planned annual meeting from Chicago to Las Vegas on very short notice in 2011, I was referred to Marisa Crame who, with her professionalism, expertise, hard-working demeanor and impeccable integrity, was a life saver. Within a very short period of time, she lined up several Las Vegas hotels and organized site visits for me. Moreover, she met me at each hotel and provided valuable assistance as I toured each property. Since that time, ABS has utilized Marisa's expertise every year as we plan our annual meeting and she has been nothing short of a highly knowledgeable and responsible professional, who has been proactive in finding and setting up sites of excellent quality for me to visit. And, for most of these years not only has she made herself available to accompany me on these visits, she has also been accessible and available to me long after site contracts have been negotiated and signed. Her professionalism---her thoroughness, reliability, persistence and serious commitment to doing a job not just well but exceptionally well---is a constant in my experiences with her and is certainly important among her many assets.

In sum, not only has Marisa been an important professional resource for ABS, on a personal level she and I have become great friends. I find her to be a personable, engaging, generous and fun person, among the many traits that I value in our friendship. It is not a cliché to say that without a doubt, I enthusiastically recommend her services to any individual or organization that has a need for the services she so expertly provides. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

***BarBara M. Scott***

BarBara M. Scott, PhD

Executive Officer

executiveofficer@associationofblacksociologists.org



July 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

In my capacity as the Executive Officer of Sociologists for Women in Society over the last three years, I have worked with Marisa Crame in helping our leaders identify sites for future meetings. This is never an easy job, there are so many factors to balance in selecting a location and a venue within it and Marisa was great at helping me understand what those factors were and providing the information we needed.

In organizations like ours, members bring even more factors to the table. They care whether a city has a good record on things like human rights and a diverse population. They want hotels that treat their employees well and use green practices. Marisa was wonderful at going the extra mile to help me sort through these as well.

In walk-throughs at hotels she was attentive to details that might have missed me and very helpful in negotiating good deals with sales staff.

In summary, from my experience Marisa Crame is always professional, always patient, and a joy to work with from the beginning to the end of the process. If you are looking for help in identifying a site for your organization's meetings, she is the person to count on.

Sincerely,

Joey Sprague  
Executive Officer



# The Southern Sociological Society

*docemus, quaerimus*

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David L. Brunsmas  
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March 10, 2013.

I am writing to acknowledge the significant role Marisa Crame, of Helms Briscoe, played in our recently concluded Winter Meeting at the Hyatt Tamaya, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico. SWS – Sociologists for Women in Society – is a non-profit scientific and educational organization of sociologists, was founded in 1971 by a group of feminist sociologists to pursue the twin goals of supporting colleagues within our discipline and the rights of women in society. We continue to grow as a strong feminist organization with US and international members; we also publish the highly acclaimed journal *Gender & Society*. I am the current President of this organization.

As President Elect in 2012, I was responsible for organizing our Winter meeting in 2013. The planning for this meeting started in 2012. Our expectations of the meeting site selected are rigorous: we expect the site to uphold fair labor standards and the highest level of environmental standards. Each President-Elect sets additional criteria; I wanted to hold the meetings in a place that had a variety of pro-women state laws. In addition, I wanted excellent services for very reasonable prices. Marissa met and exceeded all of our standards. It is important to mention that as Marisa was working with SWS for the first time during a year when our executive office was being moved to a new state. As a result, we often did not have sufficient details about previous site-specific decisions available for us. This made Marisa's job very challenging.

Marisa Crame is outstanding. She is professional proactive and continues to make sure all the criteria for the site and met and exceeded long after site contracts are signed. In sum she combines the highest standards of professionalism with her personal ethics about ensuring every meeting is of excellent quality. Several of our members mentioned that it would be hard to match the setting of our 2013 conference; yet I am sure Marisa will find other, equally outstanding places for our future meetings.

I enthusiastically recommend her, in the strongest possible terms, to any other professional organization that is considering her services. Please contact me at [Bandana.SWSPresident@gmail.com](mailto:Bandana.SWSPresident@gmail.com) if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Bandana Purkayastha, President, SWS;  
Professor & Head, Sociology, University of Connecticut.



# The Society for the Study of Social Problems

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February 25, 2013

Dr. David Brunnsma, Executive Officer  
Southern Sociological Society  
Virginia Tech, 560 McBryde Hall 90137  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dave:

We are writing this letter to recommend Marisa F. Crame and HelmsBriscoe to you and to your organization. Marisa is a Senior Director of Global Accounts and last year she celebrated her 20th anniversary with HelmsBriscoe. Marisa has the expertise and experience to assist you and your organization in identifying and negotiating contracts with hotels for your annual meetings. Marisa has become an integral part of our organization. We have relied on her expertise time and time again, and she has never disappointed us. In fact, she almost always exceeds our expectations. She knows the hospitality industry inside and out, and her contacts in the industry are extraordinary – and we trust her to recommend what is best for *our* organization. And all this does not cost the organization a dime. HelmsBriscoe is paid by the hotels, while we get her services and the pleasure of her company.

Every year since 2004, Marisa has helped us find hotels for our annual meetings. Last year she was especially helpful when we had to move from Chicago to Las Vegas on very short notice. In short order she lined up several hotels for Michele and me to visit, and she even accompanied us (which she has done on other occasions as well, when she can). Several organizations found themselves in the same boat and contacted us for help in finding a hotel in Las Vegas, and we referred them to Marisa. She was able to help the Association of Black Sociologists, the Association for the Sociology of Religion, and the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction find hotels, and I am fairly certain that one, or two, or all three are now using her services. By helping these organizations, Marisa also brought our organizations closer together. And as you know, this past year she was very helpful to your organization.

In closing, let us simply add that over the years we have also developed a personal relationship with Marisa, which Michele and I value tremendously. We've had many meals and walked many miles together, and have had many conversations, mostly about hotels, but also about our families and life in general, and she's an absolute pleasure to be with. She's the consummate professional, with very high ethical standards, and at the same time one of the warmest individuals you will meet. We recommend Marisa and HelmsBriscoe without reservation. Please feel free to call me or Michele Koontz (and we recommend Michele because Michele is our meeting manager and has known Marisa the longest) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.  
Executive Officer

Michele Smith Koontz  
Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager

Cc: Dr. Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, President of the Southern Sociological Society