



MONTGOMERY WOMEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: montgomerywomen@gmail.com

Montgomery Women Honors Judge Karla N. Smith and Shannon Babe-Thomas

Montgomery, County, MD –January 30, 2020

Montgomery Women is very pleased to announce that its 2020 Shining Star award will be given to Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge **Honorable Karla N. Smith** and its 2020 Rising Star Award to **Shannon Babe-Thomas**, Executive Director of Community Bridges, Inc.

The recipients will be celebrated at Montgomery Women's 16th Annual Power Tea on Sunday, March 1, 2020 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown, Maryland. **C. Marie Taylor**, Leadership Montgomery President and CEO, is this year's Honorary Chair and the **Honorable Brook Lierman**, Member of the Maryland House of Delegates, District 46 will deliver the keynote address.

"Montgomery Women is very proud of the inspirational leaders we honor this year. Judge Smith and Shannon Babe-Thomas exemplify the significant contributions women make to the county," said Reggie Oldak, Montgomery Women's President.

The **Shining Star** award, introduced in 2009, honors the memories of Delegate Jane Lawton and County Council Member Marilyn Praisner. Shining Star awardee **Judge Smith** has spent her career working for the protection of women and children. Prior to her appointment to the Circuit Court, she served two years with the District Court, 15 years as a prosecutor and five years as Chief of the Family Violence Division of the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office.

The **Rising Star** award, introduced in 2005, honors the memory of community activist Phyllis Campbell Newsome. Rising Star awardee **Shannon Babe-Thomas** has 17 years of nonprofit experience. As Executive Director of Community Bridges, she has successfully led and expanded the organization's capacity to launch girls from diverse backgrounds to become exceptional students, positive leaders, and healthy young women.

Montgomery Women thanks this year's sponsors **SunTrust now Truist** and **BlackRock Center for the Arts** and the welcomes the community to join us. For ticket and event information please visit our website at <http://www.montgomerywomen.org/rsvp-power-tea>.

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Montgomery Women is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing women to leadership positions in politics, business, government, the nonprofit sector, education, and civic affairs.

We bring together women from all cultural backgrounds and every corner of the county to promote and support outstanding women in their quest for equity, influence and power. Throughout the year, Montgomery Women hosts networking events, information briefings, leadership forums, and speakers on women's advancement. Membership is open to all. To learn more, please visit our website at www.MontgomeryWomen.org and like us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/montgomery women](http://www.Facebook.com/montgomerywomen) and Twitter [@Montwomen](https://twitter.com/Montwomen).