

Vince Leggett Bio



As a young boy growing up in east Baltimore, **Vincent Leggett** was introduced to the Chesapeake Bay by weekend fishing trips with his father. "I caught the spirit of the Chesapeake," he recalls. "There was a freedom that came with being on the water, away from the asphalt and concrete." For more than thirty years, Leggett has roamed the expanses of the Chesapeake waterfront, tirelessly interviewing people, "hanging out and mixing up" with waterside residents.

In 1984, Leggett began the "[Blacks of the Chesapeake Project](#)" documenting the contributions of Black Watermen on the Chesapeake Bay. In 1999 the organization established the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation which was dedicated to sharing the legacy of African American achievements in the seafood and maritime industries, preserving and conserving the environment and promoting the success of the seafood industry in the mid-Atlantic region.

In 2000, working in conjunction with U.S. Congressman, Wayne Gilchrest, and Mr. Leggett spearheaded the effort to have the Blacks of the Chesapeake recognized as a local legacy project. The centerpiece of the submittal to the Library of Congress was Mr. Leggett's two publications, [Blacks of the Chesapeake: An Integral Part of Maritime History \(1998\)](#) and [The Chesapeake Bay Through Ebony Eyes \(1999\)](#).

Leggett's seminal research project, "Chesapeake Underground: Charting the Course to Freedom", (2000) began examining the extent to which the Chesapeake Bay and its many tributaries were used to spirit bondsmen to the freedom utilizing the secretive trail which became known as the Underground Railroad.

In 2002, he was appointed and commissioned an "Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay" by former Governor Parris N. Glendening, "for bringing to the light the many contributions of African Americans to the seafood and maritime industries in the Maryland."

Leggett served as the historical consultant for the "Black Captains of the Chesapeake Documentary Film" (Steve Berry) which aired on Maryland Public TV, The "Black Watermen's Documentary Quilt" (Dr. Joan Gaither) and the Captain Eldridge Meredith: A Quintessential African American Waterman film and project.

He has served on the Advisory Committee for the John Smith Trail, and the Star Bangled Banner Bi-Centennial Celebration. During 2014, served as a Maryland Humanities Scholar, Leggett depicted the character Charles Ball, watermen, and run-away-bondsmen, who bravely fought in the War of 1812 at Fort McHenry in Baltimore. In addition, he served an expert in the national broadcasted PBS Documentary film, The War of 1812.

Mr. Leggett served on the Advisory Committee for the Harriet Tubman, National Park and Maryland Visitors Center scheduled to open in Dorchester County in 2017 and also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center in Annapolis.

He earned a B.S. Degree in Urban Planning and Community Development at Morgan State University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration at Central Michigan University.

Mr. Leggett currently is the President and CEO of [The Leggett Group USA](#), an Annapolis-based Government Relations and Lobbying Firm.