

Leonard Pitts, Jr. is a Pulitzer Prize–winning columnist for the Miami Herald and the author of the novels *Freeman* and *Before I Forget*, the memoir *Becoming Dad*, and *Forward From This Moment: Selected Columns, 1994–2009*. His nationally syndicated column is published twice weekly and has touched on such diverse topics as the Trayvon Martin case, the US presidential elections, and the state of journalism. His September 12, 2001, column, “We’ll Go Forward From This Moment,” spurred an outpouring of response as people connected with his fiery open letter to the 9/11 terrorists.

In 2004, Pitts won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary. He has also received praise and recognition from the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, GLAAD Media, and *Editor and Publisher* magazine. In his review of *Forward From This Moment*, Tavis Smiley called him “the most insightful and inspiring columnist of his generation.”

Pitts’s first novel, *Before I Forget*, was praised by *Publishers Weekly* in a starred review as “an unsettling, compelling first novel about secrets, illness, and the role of African-American men in society and family life . . . this is a rare, memorable debut.”

His second novel, *Freeman*, is an epic, compelling story about love, suffering, and perseverance, set just after the end of the Civil War. *Freeman* received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, the *Washington Post* called it “a uniquely American epic,” the *Philadelphia Inquirer* praised it as “a needed story about little-known heroism,” and the *Miami Herald* called it “masterful” and “unforgettable.”



Pitts lives in Maryland with his wife and children. Visit him on the web at www.leonardpittsjr.com.