

# **Robert Leonard**

**Professor of Comparative Literature, Languages, and Linguistics at Hofstra University**

Hempstead, NY, US

Professor of Comparative Literature, Languages, and Linguistics

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## **Biography**

Dr. Robert Leonard (PhD, Columbia) is Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Hofstra Graduate Program in Linguistics: Forensic Linguistics; the innovative Forensic Linguistics Justice Project, a joint venture with Hofstra Law School; and the Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis. Leonard was recruited by the FBI's BAU—the Behavioral Analysis Unit—to help train their agents in forensic linguistic techniques, work on cases, and advise on their Communicated Threat Assessment Database (CTAD). The British government recruited him in the run-up to the London Olympics. He was Apple's linguist in their trademark suits against Amazon and Microsoft. Other clients include Facebook, the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force, and the Prime Minister of Canada.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Research, Education/Learning

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Woodstock music festival, Forensic Linguistics, Language and the Law, Linguistics and Threat Assessment, 1960s rock n roll

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## **Affiliations**

Leonard has been qualified as a Forensic Expert Witness in Linguistics and Language in a number of state and Federal courts. As a forensic linguist, Leonard has provided expert opinions to clients that include Apple, Inc., the Prime Minister of Canada, th

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## **Sample Talks**

**Words on Trial: Forensic Linguistics in Criminal, Civil and Intelligence Investigations**  
2015 lectures at University of Virginia Columbia University and Stony Brook University

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## **Event Appearances**

**Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics**  
?How Do I Become a Forensic Linguist?

## Education

Columbia University  
Ph.D. Linguistics

Columbia University  
M.A.

Columbia University  
M.Ph.

Columbia University  
B.A.

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## Accomplishments

### Director of Hofstra's MA in Forensic Linguistics

Launched in 2010, Hofstra's MA in Forensic Linguistics was the first program of its kind in the United States. The study of forensic linguistics ? the examination of language and the law ? is increasingly being used as a tool of legal professionals, law enforcement, and the intelligence community. The only other forensic linguistics programs are in the U.K. and Spain.

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