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Dr. Stanton served in the State Department (1992-1999), where he drafted the United Nations Security Council resolutions that created the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. In 1994, Stanton won the American Foreign Service Association's prestigious W. Averell Harriman award for "extraordinary contributions to the practice of diplomacy exemplifying intellectual courage," based on his dissent from U.S. policy on the Rwandan genocide. He wrote the State Department options paper on ways to bring the Khmer Rouge to justice in Cambodia, and drafted the rules of procedure for the Khmer Rouge tribunal.

He was a law professor at Washington and Lee University and the University of Swaziland; James Farmer Professor in Human Rights at the University of Mary Washington; and a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology (Chicago); J.D. in Law (Yale); and M.T.S. (Harvard Divinity School.)