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Before joining the ACLU in 2001, Stanley was an analyst at the technology research firm Forrester, where he focused on Internet related policies, including online privacy, taxation, and antitrust issues. Before that he was a graduate student in 20th century American History at UVA, worked as a writer and editor for a New York publishing company, and held several technology-oriented jobs. He is a graduate of Williams College and holds an M.A. in American History from the University of Virginia.