

The Kenneth R. Clegg Award for Excellence

The Maine Board of Bar Examiners bestows the
February 2026 Kenneth R. Clegg Award for Excellence to

Melissa Palzewicz

This Award honors the memory of Kenneth R. Clegg, an extremely intelligent and intellectually engaging member of the Maine Board of Bar Examiners from 1989 to 2002 and its first Treasurer. It is given to the applicant who obtains the highest combined score on the Maine Bar Examination in his or her first attempt at passing a bar examination.

But it is because Ken was so much more than merely professionally gifted that the Board named this Award for him. Ken was a native Californian, a graduate of Brown University, and first in his class at Hastings College of Law before moving to Maine to clerk for the Supreme Judicial Court. He was both a fine advocate and a champion of fairness, first with VISTA, then as a law school teacher, and finally in the courtroom. He was a poet and a novelist, a cyclist and a cellist. He was a gourmet cook, world traveler, and charming conversationalist. He had many friends, was a devoted husband, a beloved father and a classic gentleman. The Board was fortunate to have the service of a member of Ken's intelligence, but it appreciated him just as much for his humor and for the urbanity, dedication, and great good sense he consistently showed during his service as a Member of this Board and at the Bar.

The Board hopes the recipient of this Award will be inspired to follow Ken's example and, like Ken, will become both a positive force in the profession and a person who broadly enriches life, earning thereby the esteem of the Bar and the personal admiration of his or her colleagues that Ken Clegg claimed.