

**THE CITY OF MANILA, PLAINTIFF-APPELLANT, VS. LA GRANJA, INC.,
DEFENDANT-APPELLEE.***G.R. No. 48025. May 29, 1942*

Ponente: BOCOBO, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/g-r-no-48025/>**BOCOBO, J.:**

The City of Manila seeks to recover from La Granja, Inc., the sum of P4,800 as first-class wholesale liquor license fees under section 2531 of the Revised Administrative Code, for the years 1933 to 1936. The Court of First Instance found that the defendant's branch in Manila was a mere bodega or warehouse as a distributing center from which wines and liquors sold by defendant in its principal office at Aparri, Cagayan, or in its branches at Cabanatuan (Nueva Ecija) and Rosales (Pangasinan) were sent out to the buyers in various provinces. Therefore, the trial court held that the defendant was not liable to pay the license fees demanded by the plaintiff. The City of Manila appealed from such decision.

Section 2531 of the Revised Administrative Code provides:

"SEC. 2531. First-class wholesale liquor license.— Licenses for periods of one year may be issued to any person or persona of good character, authorizing him or them to keep in stock and sell or give away fermented malt, vinous, and spirituous liquors in quantities of four liters or more, upon payment in advance of the sum of one thousand two hundred pesos; but such licenses may be paid in advance in four quarterly installments of three hundred pesos each, at the election of the licensee. A license of this class shall be known as a 'first-class wholesale liquor license,' and it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to sell or otherwise dispose of fermented malt, vinous, and spirituous liquors at wholesale without such license, or, having obtained such license, to sell or otherwise dispose of such liquors except as herein prescribed, but nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting any person or persons holding a 'brewer's license' or 'distiller's license' from disposing of the products of such brewery or distillery at the place of production."

While there is evidence presented by the plaintiff tending to show that the sales of wines and liquors were made in the Manila branch, nevertheless it is unnecessary to pass upon this evidence, because even if the defendant's establishment in the City of Manila had been merely a warehouse used as a distributing center, as maintained by the defendant and found by the lower court, La Granja, Inc., would still be liable to pay the license fees in question because such a distribution of the merchandise was a disposal of the same within the meaning of section 2531 of the Administrative Code. And it is only fair and just that the defendant should pay these fees because whether the wines and liquors were sold or were merely deposited in Manila and distributed from the city, protection by the city against robbery, theft, fire and the like was afforded the defendant.

Wherefore, the judgment of the trial court should be and is hereby reversed, and another judgment will be entered, ordering the defendant to pay the City of Manila the amount of P4,800 with legal interest from the date of the filing of the complaint, with costs against the defendant. So ordered.

Yulo, C. J., Moron, Ozaeta, and Paras, JJ., concur.

ABOUT BATAS.ORG

Study smarter at BATAS.org

The Philippine bar review and law-school companion built around how your brain actually remembers.

The complete Philippine law library - free for everyone.

More than 100,000 Supreme Court decisions, Republic Acts, and executive issuances - full-text searchable, browsable by category and year, and always free. No paywall, no login. This PDF came from it.

Audio case-brief lectures.

Any decision becomes a podcast-style lecture - facts, issues, ruling, and doctrine - with read-along highlighting and a hands-free presentation mode. Study while commuting, working out, or resting your eyes.

Bar review built on the science of memory.

Complete, sequenced courses for all eight bar subjects, narrated like podcasts and reinforced with retrieval practice and spaced review - the study techniques with the strongest evidence behind them.

The full law-school curriculum.

One subscription unlocks the entire J.D. curriculum - every subject, every lesson, with your progress tracked down to the paragraph so you can pick up exactly where you left off, on any device.

Mock exams that tell you where you stand.

Timed multiple-choice exams graded instantly, with per-subject score breakdowns and focus suggestions that point you at your weakest topics first.

A study planner that keeps you on pace.

Set your schedule and BATAS tells you every day whether you are on track for bar day - and exactly which lesson to take next.

Start free at <https://batas.org>

The law library is free forever - and your first lesson is one click away.

The text of this document is an official public record and remains in the public domain. Formatting, presentation, and compilation © 2026 batas.org.

Downloaded free from the batas.org Law Library. Share it freely - the library is free for every law student, bar reviewee, and practitioner.