

THE UNITED STATES, PLAINTIFF AND APPELLEE, VS. LEONCIO MANUEL, DEFENDANT AND APPELLANT.

G.R. No. 6130. August 04, 1911

Ponente: MAPA, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/g-r-no-6130/>

MAPA, J.:

The defendant in this case is charged with a violation of the Election Law, committed as follows:

"That the said accused voluntarily, unlawfully and knowingly caused his name to be entered in the electoral list prepared by the electoral board of inspectors of the said municipality of Piddig, for the last general elections held on November 2, 1909, which entry was made on October 2, 1909, the accused knowing that he was not entitled to be a voter of the said municipality, and for such purpose did knowingly swear to a false oath before one of the members of the said board, inasmuch as he stated therein that he was qualified to be a voter as being the owner of real estate to the value of P500, knowing that he did not have such qualification - acts committed in violation of the said Election Law."

To prove the charge made, the prosecution presented the registration oath subscribed by the accused and a certified copy of the resolution of the provincial board of Ilocos Norte approving, on appeal, that passed by the board of election inspectors of the municipality of Piddig whereby the said accused was excluded from the list of voters of the municipality mentioned. No other evidence was presented by the prosecution.

The ground that the provincial board of Ilocos Norte had for approving and confirming the exclusion of the herein accused from the list of voters prepared and determined upon by the board of election inspectors of the municipality of Piddig, is set forth literally as follows in the aforementioned certified copy:

"Whereas the private documents and new declarations of ownership of property, not properly prepared, which were presented by Leoncio Manuel, should not have been accepted, and though they be accepted with the public instruments, he would still be delinquent in the payment of last year's land tax, on account of no assessment having been made of the properties referred to by some of the said instruments, which circumstance constitutes a sufficient reason for not permitting him to vote."

As is seen, the provincial board of Ilocos Norte does not categorically affirm that the accused does not own real estate to the value of P500, which is the concrete fact that constitutes the alleged falsity of the oath taken by him as a voter. On the contrary, it implicitly allows the inference that the documents presented before it by the said accused prove, if admitted, that he is the owner of real estate worth that amount or more. What is certain is that the decision of the aforementioned provincial board was not grounded on a contrary fact; that is, on the fact of his not having real estate of the value of P500, but on that other fact, which certainly has no importance in this cause because it was not charged in the complaint, namely, that the accused was delinquent in the payment of his land tax. The resolution of the provincial board of Ilocos Norte contains, then, nothing which may corroborate the certainty of the act prosecuted in this case. Moreover, whatever might have been the opinion of the said board with regard to the amount of the real estate owned by the accused, it would not by itself be sufficient to prove in a conclusive manner that the value of the property referred to did not actually reach P500, or, that the accused did

not have holdings in the amount required by law to enable him to be a voter. This fact must be proved by direct and positive evidence, and not by the mere opinions upon or weight given to other facts, however authorized they in themselves may be, except when vested with a judicial character. The documents presented by the prosecution do not sufficiently prove that the accused swore falsely on his taking oath that he was the owner of real estate of the value of P500. He, therefore, has a perfect right to an acquittal.

The judgment is reversed and the defendant acquitted, with the costs of both instances de oficio. So ordered.

Johnson, Carson, and Moreland, 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.