

THE UNITED STATES, PLAINTIFF AND APPELLEE, VS. SATURNINO AGUAS, DEFENDANT AND APPELLANT.

G.R. No. 9329. March 30, 1914

Ponente: CARSON, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/g-r-no-9329/>

CARSON, J.:

The appellant herein, together with 26 other persons, was charged by the fiscal of Pampanga Province with gambling in violation of the provisions of section 7 of Act No. 1757 of the Philippine Commission. Upon the trial of the case all of the accused pleaded guilty with the exception of Saturnino Aguas and Marciano Ordonez, who pleaded "not guilty." Upon the proof adduced at the trial of the case both were found guilty and each was sentenced to pay a fine of P30, to suffer subsidiary imprisonment as provided by law, and to pay his proportionate part of the costs of the trial. From this judgment of conviction Aguas alone appealed, and the case is now before us on his appeal.

The record establishes that on the night of April 13, 1913, the appellant and a number of other persons were present at the house of Candido Rivera in the municipality of Mexico, Province of Pampanga, where a game of "monte" was in progress; that about half past 10 o'clock a raid was made on the house by two Constabulary soldiers who suddenly entered the room where the gambling was in progress and seized some P20 in money, some cards and other gambling paraphernalia, and arrested the persons found in the room.

At the moment of the arrest this appellant was standing some 3 or 4 meters from the table where the gambling was in progress, engaged in a conversation with the owner of the house. Appellant claims that he had come to the house just a short while before for the purpose of seeing the owner on a matter of business and that he was discussing the business in hand at the time of the raid. But we agree with the trial judge that his explanation of his presence at the gambling game at the hour and under all the circumstances is not satisfactory. His story as it appears in the record is not convincing, and we are unable to say that the trial judge, who saw and heard him testify, erred in refusing to believe his testimony, and in finding him guilty as charged in the information.

The judgment convicting and sentencing the appellant should be and is hereby affirmed, with the costs of this instance against the appellant.

Arellano, C. J., Moreland, Trent, and Araullo, 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.