CODOSSIER
November 5, 2026

N-400 Naturalization Application and 2021 Conviction Exposure

Prepared by counsel for the client's review

WHERE **US Naturalization Law (USCIS adjudication of Form N-400)**

Value of merchandise taken $180

Fine imposed $300

Probation term 12 months summary probation

Maximum possible sentence for PC 484(a) misdemeanor 6 months

Jail sentence imposed or suspended None (0 months)

Number of arrests or offenses ever 1

Time as LPR at AS OF date 10 years 8 months

Interval from LPR grant to offense 5 years 3 months

Maria Santos becomes lawful permanent resident through marriage to a US citizen 2016-03

Petty theft of about $180 of merchandise from a department store 2021-06

Conviction under Penal Code 484(a) on no contest plea; $300 fine, 12 months summary probation 2021

Summary probation completed 2022

Divorce from US citizen spouse 2023

Client's considered waiting point past June 2026, stated in t16 as passed 2026-06

WHERE EACH BUCKET STANDS

BUCKET 1 **Good moral character, disclosure, and interview readiness** NO BAR — weighing and sworn consistency decide

Goal served: an approved N-400 and oath. Posture: the client is a Philippine citizen and LPR since March 2016, obtained through marriage to a U.S. citizen.

BUCKET 2 **Conviction classification, exception, and removal exposure** CONVICTION COUNTS — exception route, removal separate

The one June 2021 petty theft conviction ($180, $300 fine, 12 months summary probation, no jail) is a conviction for immigration purposes. The petty offense exception is the route that keeps it from barring the N-400, and the removal analysis is a separate track.

WHAT TO DO, IN ORDER

01 **Prescriptions withheld.** This run proposed no prescription that survived review. Act on the bottom line.

WHAT WE STILL NEED

- Post-judgment relief (e.g., PC 1203.4 dismissal) was sought or granted — Certified court disposition and client; affects how the disposition is presented, not the conviction status for immigration purposes
- IRS tax transcripts covering the statutory period — IRS transcript request by client or counsel (planned, not yet obtained); record establishes only that the client states taxes were filed each year
- Client's conduct and character since 2022 beyond absence of arrests (employment, family support, community ties) — Client's declaration (planned); needed for the holistic good moral character review
- Certified probation completion order — California superior court clerk (requested, not yet received); confirms completion date beyond the year 2022
- English-language ability and civics knowledge for the naturalization test — Client interview by counsel; not addressed in the record

POINTS RAISED THAT THIS BRIEF DOES NOT YET ANSWER

- Residual removal referral risk
- Interview preparation on the conviction
- Filing packet and post-2022 record

Citations and dates in this brief are confirmed by counsel before you rely on them.