

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 1512 OF 2018
WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 1814 OF 2025
WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 563 OF 2025**

Mahesh Gopal Patel ...Appellant
Versus
The State Of Maharashtra ...Respondent

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Mr. Aniket Nikam, Advocate for the Appellant/Applicant.
Ms. P.N. Dabholkar, APP for the State/Respondent.

**CORAM : SARANG V. KOTWAL &
ADVAIT M. SETHNA, JJ.**

DATE : 22th AUGUST 2025

PC. :

1. These Applications are sent through jail by the original appellant in Criminal Appeal No. 1512 of 2018. In both these applications, he has prayed that the counsel, who is appointed to represent him in the appeal by the Legal Service Authority be changed and in his place other advocate be appointed. He has given three names.

2. The appellant is provided with services of legal aid counsel. We do not want to encourage the practice where the applicant suggests the names of legal aid counsel. This is purely within the domain of the functioning of the Legal Service Authority of the Court.

Therefore, the concerned officer of the Legal Service Authority of this Court shall have video conferencing with the appellant and explain him the situation.

3. In any case, the advocate who is earlier appointed by the Legal Service Authority to represent the appellant is relieved from his responsibility in appearing in the appeal. The Legal Service Authority shall take urgent steps to appoint another advocate in his place to represent the appellant, after explaining these facts to the appellant.

4. The appellant is in custody from long time. Therefore the appeal be listed for final hearing at the bottom of admission board on 7th October 2025.

5. The Legal Service Authority of this Court is requested to take urgent steps in view of this order.

6. Interim Application No. 563 of 2024 and 1814 of 2025 are disposed of.

(ADVAIT M. SETHNA, J.)

(SARANG V. KOTWAL, J.)