



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

220

CRA-AS-63-2018 (O&M)

Date of decision: 20.11.2025

Sachin Chadha

... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

Ankur Katyal

...Respondent(s)

**CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ**

Present :- Ms. Himanshi Gautam, Advocate for the Appellant(s)  
(Legal Aid Counsel).

\*\*\*\*\*

**VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)**

The present appeal has been preferred seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 25.05.2015 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Jalandhar, in a case stemming from complaint dated 04.02.2012 filed under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

2. The complaint (supra) was filed on the ground of dishonour of cheque of Rs.1,45,000/-. After assessing all the material available on the record, the learned trial Court acquitted the respondent(s) vide judgment dated 25.05.2015.

3. It is noticed that the instant appeal pertains to the year 2018, however, no one has entered appearance on behalf of the appellant(s), hence, it is deemed expedient to nominate a Legal Aid Counsel Ms. Himanshi Gautam, Advocate (Mob. No.83978-24689), who is present in the Court, is

appointed as the Legal Aid Counsel to represent the case on behalf of appellant(s) to arrive at a decision. She has gone through the case file and submits that the present appeal has been filed against the judgment of acquittal dated 25.05.2015 passed by the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Jalandhar, in complaint dated 04.02.2012 filed under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. She fairly submits that in view of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed in *M/s. Celestium Financial vs. A. Gnanasekaran Etc., 2025(3) RCR (Criminal) 208*, the applicant would have a remedy before the Court of Sessions.

4. In view of the judgment rendered by the Apex Court in *Celestium Financial (supra)*, the present appeal is **remanded** to the learned Sessions Judge, Jalandhar with a direction to treat the same as an appeal filed under Section 372 of the Cr.P.C. (Section 413 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023) and entrust the same to appropriate Court for its disposal on merits.

5. The Registry is directed to send the complete paper-book and the record of the case to the learned Sessions Judge, Jalandhar forthwith.

6. Disposed of accordingly. Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

7. A copy of this order be sent to the High Court Legal Service Committee for information and necessary action.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)  
JUDGE

20.11.2025

Mangal Singh

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No  
Whether reportable : Yes/No