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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRA-AS-48-2023

Date of decision: 21.08.2025

H.D.F.C. BANK LTD

...Appellant

Versus

GURBAJ SINGH

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE **SUBHAS MEHLA**Present: Mr. Saurabh Bhardwaj, Advocate
for the appellant.

SUBHAS MEHLA, J (Oral):

1. The present application has been preferred under Section 378(4) of Criminal Procedure Code (hereinafter 'Cr.P.C') seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 11.08.2016 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Sri Muktsar Sahinb in a complaint case filed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (hereinafter 'NI Act').

2. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *M/s Celestium Financial vs. A. Gnanasekaran Etc., 2025(3) RCR (Criminal) 208*, after considerable discussion and comparative interpretation of Sections 372 and 378(4) of Cr.P.C., concluded that the victim has a right to file an appeal under Section 372 of Cr.P.C. before the Court of Sessions. Reliance in this regard can also be placed on **Satish Kumar Versus Jugal Kishor** in **CRM-A-2700-MA-2018** decided on 02.07.2025. Further still, applying the doctrine of prospective overruling, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence Vs. Raj Kumar Arora** in SCC



Online 819 has clarified that as a rule of thumb, judgments rendered shall be applicable retrospectively.

3. Therefore, in view of the judgment rendered by the Apex Court in *Celestium Financial (supra)*, the present application seeking leave to appeal is remanded back to the learned Sessions Judge, concerned with a direction to treat the same as filed under Section 372 of the Cr.P.C. and entrust it to appropriate Court for its disposal.

4. The application for condonation of delay shall be decided by the appellate Court after providing opportunity of hearing to the opposite party.

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

6. Disposed of accordingly.

(SUBHAS MEHLA)
JUDGE

21.08.2025
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1. Whether speaking/ reasoned : Yes /No
2. Whether reportable : Yes /No