



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH**

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**CRM-A-2671-2019 (O&M)**

**Date of decision: 22.09.2025**

M/s Vinod Kumar Anil Kumar, Commission Agents      ... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

M/s Raj Rice Mills, and others      ...Respondent(s)

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

Present :- Mr. Hushank Goswami, Advocate for the Appellant(s)  
(Legal Aid Counsel).

Mr. Arshit Goel, Advocate for respondents No.1 to 3.

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

The present application has been preferred seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 02.09.2019 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Patiala, in a case stemming from complaint bearing COMA No.1155-2017 filed under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

2. The complaint (supra) was filed on the ground of dishonour of cheque of Rs.7,47,500/-. After assessing all the material available on the record, the learned trial Court acquitted the respondent(s) vide judgment dated 02.09.2019.

3. It is noticed that the instant application pertains to the year 2019, however, no one has entered appearance on behalf of the applicant(s)/appellant(s), hence, it is deemed expedient to nominate a Legal Aid Counsel. Mr. Hushank Goswami, Advocate, Advocate (PH-5774-



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2025), who is present in the Court, is appointed as the Legal Aid Counsel to represent the case on behalf of applicant(s)/appellant(s) to arrive at a decision. He has gone through the case file and submits that the present application has been filed against the judgment of acquittal dated 02.09.2019 passed by the Judicial Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Patiala, in complaint complaint bearing COMA No.1155-2017 filed under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. He 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 application seeking leave to appeal is **remanded** to the learned Sessions Judge, Patiala with a direction to treat the same as an appeal filed under Section 372 of the Cr.P.C. 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, Patiala 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

22.09.2025

Mangal Singh

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