IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIRCUIT BENCH AT KOLHAPUR
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO.347 OF 2008

Rajan Balwant Bhokare] Appellant

versus

Shrikant Shankar Mahajan and another] Respondents

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Mr. Ajay Raje Nimbalkar i/b Mr. Shriniwas S. Patwardhan, Advocate for Appellant.
None for Respondent No.1.
Mr. Anand S. Shalgaonkar, APP for Respondent No.2-State.

SHAILAJA SHRIKANT HALKUDE
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CORAM : ABHAY J. MANTRI, J.
DATE : OCTOBER 23, 2026

PER COURT :

1. Mr. Nimbalkar, learned Advocate, appears for the Appellant and submits that he has preferred an Application to the Registry for discharge from the proceedings and the same is pending.

2. No one appears for Respondent No.1.

3. Learned APP for Respondent No.2 - State submits that this is an Appeal against the acquittal order passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Miraj, for the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

4. Learned A.P.P further submits that, in view of the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Celestium Financial vs. A. Gnanasekaran***

etc.,* [2025 SCC OnLine SC 1320]** (for short, ***"Celestium"), the appeal would lie before the learned Sessions Court having jurisdiction to try and entertain the same and therefore urges that the matter be transferred to the said Court.

5. In view of the above submissions and the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Celestium*** *(supra)*, I deem it appropriate to transfer the Appeal to the learned Sessions Court, Sangli, which has the jurisdiction to try and entertain the appeal.

6. Consequently, ***the present Appeal, along with the Record and Proceedings, if received, is to be transferred to the learned Sessions Court, Sangli.*** (If the Record and Proceedings are lying with the Principal Seat at Bombay, in that case also, transfer the same to the concerned Sessions Court.)

7. The Officer on Special Duty/Incharge Registrar (J), Circuit Bench at Kolhapur, is directed to take appropriate steps to transfer this matter/proceeding to the learned Sessions Court, Sangli.

8. Having considered the pendency of this Appeal since 2008, the learned Sessions Court is directed to make an endeavour to dispose of the matter/proceeding as expeditiously as possible.

9. In view of the above, no case/matter is pending before this Court; accordingly, this Court has disposed of this proceeding.

10. Interim Application/s, if any, pending also stands disposed of.

11. Inform the concerned Sessions Court accordingly.

(ABHAY J. MANTRI, J.)