



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

234

CRM-A-462-2019 (O&M)
Date of decision:12.01.2026

SAT PAL

...Applicant

VERSUS

SHAMSHER SINGH BANDAN

...Respondent

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

Present :- Ms. Vidushi Singh as Legal Aid Counsel,
for the applicant.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

The present application has been preferred under Section 378(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (hereinafter 'CR.P.C.') seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 18.12.2018 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Dhuri stemming out from complaint dated 14.06.2016 filed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

2. It is noticed that the instant application pertains to the year 2019, however, no one has entered appearance on behalf of the applicant, hence, it is deemed expedient to nominate a Legal Aid Counsel. Ms. Vidushi Singh, Advocate, Enrollment No. PH/12346/2025 who is present in the Court, is appointed as the Legal Aid Counsel to represent the case on behalf of applicant to arrive at a decision. She has gone through the case file and submits that the present application has been filed against the judgment of acquittal dated 18.12.2018 passed by the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class,

Dhuri, in complaint case No. 253 of 14.06.2016 filed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. She fairly submits that in view of the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court 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.

3. The complaint (supra) was filed on the ground of dishonour of cheque bearing No. 305222 dated 09.05.2016 issued by the accused-respondent amounting to Rs. 2,80,000/-. After assessing all the material available on the record, the learned trial Court acquitted the respondent(s) vide judgment dated 18.12.2018.

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, Sangrur with a direction to treat the same as an appeal filed under Section 372 of the Cr.P.C. (now Section 413 of BNSS) 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, Sangrur 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

JANUARY 12, 2026

Vishal Sharma

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