



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

215

**CRM-A-123-MA-2016
Date of decision: 13.08.2025**

GAGAN BALA

.... APPELLANT

VERSUS

PARMOD CHOPRA

...RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBHAS MEHLA

Present: Mr. Pavan Malik, Advocate
for the appellant.

SUBHAS MEHLA, J. (Oral)

1. 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 the judgment of acquittal dated 09.12.2015 passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Yamuna Nagar at Jagadhri 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, Yamuna Nagar at Jagadhri 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 Registry is directed to send the complete paper-book and the record of the case to the learned Sessions Judge, Yamuna Nagar at Jagadhri forthwith.

5. Disposed of accordingly.

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

(SUBHAS MEHLA)
JUDGE

13.08.2025

Kusum

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Whether Reportable</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>