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SUPREME COURT

Split Verdict, Bigger Question

Supreme Court Seeks Clarity on Limits of Third Judge's Authority

Sheikh Rayees • June 11, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

The Supreme Court has placed a significant procedural question before a larger Bench: how far can a third judge go when called upon to resolve a split verdict in a criminal appeal? At the heart of the reference lies the interpretation of Section 392 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which comes into play when two judges hearing a criminal appeal differ in their conclusions. In such situations, the...

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