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SUPREME COURT

Witness Recall Under Order 18 Rule 17 CPC Not a Shortcut to Repair Weak Evidence

Supreme Court

Sheikh Rayees • August 5, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

The Supreme Court has reaffirmed that courts cannot use Order XVIII Rule 17 of the Code of Civil Procedure as a mechanism to give litigants a second chance to strengthen their case. The provision, the Court clarified, is intended solely to enable judges to clear doubts arising from evidence already placed on record and does not permit parties to reopen testimony for further cross-examination or to plug gaps in their...

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