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Mumbai trial: Prosecutors allege defence lawyer has fake degree

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The trial of seven Pakistani suspects charged with involvement in the [Mumbai attacks](#) took an unexpected turn on Saturday when prosecutors alleged one of the defence lawyers possessed a fake degree and should be barred from appearing in court.

As Judge Rana Nisar Ahmed of the Rawalpindi-based anti-terrorism court began proceedings, the prosecution team produced an FIR filed against defence lawyer Shahbaz Rajput by officials of the Rawalpindi Bar Association that alleged he possessed a fake law degree.

The prosecutors demanded that Rajput be barred from appearing in the court.

The prosecution also produced the president of the Rawalpindi Bar Association in court to support their argument.

Rajput contested the prosecution's claim during the in-camera proceedings and produced documents saying that his degree had been verified by the Rawalpindi Bar Council, sources said.

The judge subsequently adjourned the case till January 8.

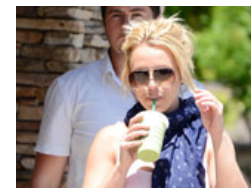
Talking to PTI, Rajput said the FIR had been filed against him on December 1 by the president and general secretary of the Rawalpindi Bar Association in a bid to "pressurise" him to stop acting as counsel for the suspects accused of involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

With inputs from PTI

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