**NAME:** Anorue Victoria Uchechi

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**Introduction**

Legal research is concerned with finding information contained in authoritative sources of law. The sources are where the original fact, information and rule of law could be derived. The law library has a depository of numerous legal sources. The legal sources literally refer where, how and by what authority a particular rule of is made and becomes legally effective to regulate human conduct. We can classify the sources of Nigerian law into two aspects namely, primary sources and secondary sources. The primary sources include English Law (consisting of the received English law as well the extended English law), Nigerian legislation and subsidiary enactments, Nigerian case law or judicial precedent and customary law rules, including the Islamic law where applicable. The secondary sources of Nigerian law comprise of law reports, textbooks, legal periodicals, law digests, legal dictionaries and newspapers, among others. We must quickly point out here that only the primary sources could have binding force on a court of law in Nigeria whereas the mentioned secondary sources can merely serve persuasive purposes and are usually relied upon where no primary source is available or applicable. We shall attempt a detailed discussion of secondary sources of law.

**Secondary Sources of Nigerian Law**

Secondary sources of law are the sources of law that do not carry a dominant legal weight and binding effect. The legal authorities contain in these kinds of sources are diluted and persuasive which are not binding on any court of law. According to Beredugo (2009), secondary sources of law are less significance sources of law that carry barely persuasive legal authority or effect and are therefore, not binding on any court of law. Secondary sources can be useful in court of law or resorted to where the court finds the opinion or fact underlying the authority contained therein. Secondary sources can be referred to in court if it supports the authorities of the primary sources. Examples of secondary

sources of Nigerian law according to Beredugo includes:

(a) decisions of courts of foreign countries

(b) International conventions, treaties, and resolutions of international bodies;

(c) Statements or opinions of jurists and learned authors contained in law textbooks, journal,

periodicals, dictionaries, letters, speeches, and interviews;

(d) legal opinions contained in nullified judgements.

Secondary sources of law also include all sources that provide helpful introductions to legal subjects, synopses of decisions, statutes, and regulations in a given field, analyses of trends and historical

background of law, explanation of new or difficult concepts, descriptions and analysis of the law and its developments and citations to primary sources through footnotes and annotations.

Secondary Information Resources in Nigerian Law Libraries

Secondary information sources are the materials that contain information derived or extracted from

the primary sources of law and have undergone diluted processes or certain alterations. Akinyemi

(2017) defines secondary information sources as the information resources extracted from the

primary sources after they have been manipulated, diluted and rearranged. They include:

Text books (of different practice areas and others)

Journals /Law reviews

Law digests

Court forms (e.g. Atkins Court Form)

Practice notes

Magazines

Encyclopaedias

Law dictionaries, and

Others.