ABARA CINDY KOSISOCHUKWU

19/LAW01/001

LEGAL METHOD

**SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW**

Secondary sources discuss, analyze, describe, explain and criticize the law; sometimes they may restate the law. Secondary sources are not the law rather, they are commentary on the law.

Secondary sources has three main purposes:

* To educate about the law
* To direct one to primary sources
* To serve as a persuasive authority

The secondary sources of law include:

* treaties
* periodical articles
* legal encyclopedias
* ALR annotations
* restatements

**TREATIES**

Legal treaties are single or multi-volume works dedicated to the examination of an area of law. Treaties tend to be very at describing the law, they are very good law finders and most classic treaties are persuasive. They provide an in-depth information on a particular area of the law and also provide the researcher with references to a few cases and statutes.

**LEGAL PERIODICALS**

Legal periodical articles are in-depth discussions of narrow areas of the law and legal issues. Articles in academic journals revolve around theoretical and cutting-edge legal issues. Articles in practitioner oriented journals tend to be more practical. They are very good law finders; most of the time, they have footnotes with legal citations. Often times, they are used for explaining the law but they are too theoretical.

**LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

They are immense set of books that briefly describe all the main legal issues for a particular jurisdiction. An encyclopedia provides basic introduction to an area of the law and also provides the user with some case and statutory citations.

**ALR**

ALR provides topical annotations that focus on relatively narrow areas of the law, but discuss it in some depth. They provide a good basic grounding in law, as well as serve as good case finding tools. ALR titles are very descriptive.

**RESTATEMENTS**

Restatements were developed by legal scholars initially to restate the law and currently to describe what the law should be. In either case, restatements are very persuasive although they are not very good at describing the law. They can serve as adequate law finders. There are restatement for many areas of the law but not all.