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 **ASSIGNMENT**

 **THE SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW**

A secondary sources is not a law but complementary on the law which can be used for three different purposes: it might educate you about the law, it might direct you to the primary source of law and it might serve as persuasive authority. Secondary sources of law are background resources they explain interpret and analyse laws. Secondary sources also gives a general overview of the subject and identify the relevant status, regulations, constitutional provisions and important cases that relate to a topic. Secondary sources are cited as legal authority. Secondary sources should be used mainly to find citations to primary source and gain an insight of a subject or topic.

 The secondary sources of law are the indirect ways through which we get our law save for law report secondary sources of law are of persuasive authority in the law court. Law report are only authoritative due to the fact that they serve as the vehicle through which judicial precedence is carried out.

SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW OFFERS :

1. Helpful introduction to legal subjects
2. Synopsis of decisions, status and regulations in a given topic
3. Analysis of trends and historical background
4. Explanation of new or difficult concepts
5. Description and analysis of the law and its development
6. Citations to primary sources through footnotes and annotation.

Types of secondary sources of law are:

1. TREATIES : Legal treaties are single or multi volume works dedicated to the examination of an area of law. Treatises tend to be very good at describing the law, they are good law finders and many of the classic treatises are persuasive. It also provides an in depth discussion of a particular area of the law and provides the researcher with reference to a few cases and statuses. Also commentaries for a single area of law written by legal scholars and practitioners. It provides a comprehensive coverage of a single area of law.
2. RESTATEMENT: Statement of rules of law of certain subjects. The Restatement were developed by legal scholars initially to restate the law and currently to describe what the law maybe. In either case, Restatement are very persuasive although they re not really good at describing the law they only serve as adequate law finders.
3. LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIA: A legal Encyclopedia are immense set of books that briefly describes all of the main legal issues for a particular jurisdiction. A Encyclopedia can provide a basic introduction to an area of law and will provide the user with some case and statutory citations. Legal Encyclopedia are available online and in print.

 Also a legal encyclopedia is seen as a short explanation of the law, alphabetically arranged by topic and divided into various sub topics, a foot note to primary authority(cases and statuses).

1. LEGAL PERIODICALS: legal periodicals articles are in depth discussion of narrow area of the law and legal issues. Articles in academic journals tend to be very practical. Periodicals articles are very good law finders, they tend to have a great many footnotes with a lot of legal citations. Occasionally, legal periodicals articles can be useful in explaining the law, but often they are too theoretical for that. Legal indexes are used to find citations to articles in legal periodicals such as law review, bar journals and legal newsletters.

\_ law review: published mainly by law students, law review provides articles written by legal scholars, law students, and in some cases by practicing attorneys.

\_ Bar journals, trade journals and newsletters: National, state and local bar associations publishes journals that contains articles on the law, news on interest to members and in some cases text of legal ethics opinion. Trade journals and newsletters publish articles, court decisions and other note worthy information regarding a specific area of law.

1. LOOSELEAF SERVICES: looseleaf services brings together all the law on a particular topic. Looseleaf service don’t exist for all area of law, but when they do exist they can be an invaluable resource. They are rarely cited except when they serve as a case reporter.
2. LEGAL DICTIONARIES: legal dictionaries provides definitions of topic terms that are unclear, appropriate acronyms or abbreviations related to the topic, as well as additional search terms. To search for legal dictionaries in the library's online catalogue. The dictionary is a good source to find current term related to the legal field.