**NAME: ONIWAIYE GRACE OLUWASEUN**

**COURSE: LEGAL METHODS**

**COURSE CODE: LAW 102**

**COLLEGE: LAW**

**MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/218**

**QUESTION: DISCUSS SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA. JUSTIFY YOUR WORK.**

Secondary sources of law are background resources. They explain, interpret and analyze. They include: encyclopedias, law reviews, treaties, restatements. Secondary sources are a good way to start research and often have citations to primary sources.

Secondary sources of law furnishes information and are **derived** from the primary sources of law through examination of the primary sources of law, critiques of the primary sources of law or even discussion bothering as the primary sources, in other words, the secondary sources of law provides explanations to the primary sources.

The secondary sources of Nigerian law are the indirect ways through which we get our law. Except for law reports, secondary sources of Nigerian law are of persuasive authority in the law courts. Secondary sources of law are only made use of whenever there are no primary sources of law to fall back.

EXAMPLES OF SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA

1. Law reports
2. Law Text Books
3. Law Journals
4. Casebooks
5. Legal Dictionaries
6. Legal Encyclopedia

Law Reports

Law reports are published account of cases decided upon by the law courts. The reports contain the parties in the case, facts of the case, issues therein and decision reached with references to cases and materials cited in the decision. Reports of cases may cover for a single court (Supreme Court Cases) or several courts. Some law reports are subject based (Industrial Law Reports). Examples of law reports in Nigeria are: Nigeria Law Reports (NLR), Federal Supreme Court Reports (FSCR).

Law Text Books

Law textbooks are general law textbooks. They treat aspects of law or are general in content. Law textbooks provide basic information on the nature, content, and principles of law specifically treated by subject. Special features of law textbooks include table of cases, table of statutes, table of abbreviation etc.

Law Journals

Law journals also known as periodicals are periodical in nature and important sources of law. Law journals may be general in nature or specialized. They provide researched and expert opinions in all aspects of the law. Journals provide updates, criticism and opinion on current issues of law. Examples are Cambridge Law Journal, Unizik Law Journal. The writings of different solicitors with their various analysis, criticisms and assessments of the primary sources.

Casebooks

Casebooks do not summarize or provide unique commentary on the law; instead they contain excerpts from cases, journal articles and treatises which can be used for discussion in class. It is a type of textbook used primarily by students in law schools. Instead of simply laying out the legal doctrine in a particular area of study, a casebook contains excerpts from legal cases in which the law was applied. Example is a casebook on law of equity and trusts in Nigeria by B.A Iheme.

Legal Dictionaries

Legal dictionaries provide meanings of words, phrase or terms from the legal point of view. English is the language of the law; it is however rich in French and Latin expressions. Legal dictionaries help law students, legal practitioners and researchers to understand and appreciate the rich vocabulary of the law. Examples include: Black’s Law Dictionary, Osborn’s Concise Law Dictionary, The Nigerian law dictionary.

Legal Encyclopedia

Legal encyclopedias are useful starting point for general information for any legal issue. They provide background information of the law, its definition, use and application and are generally written by experts in various fields of law. Most legal encyclopedias appear in volumes each specifying range of subject coverage. Students and legal researchers are however advised to start from the index, which will refer them to or point to the appropriate pages the subject in question is treated. An example is Encyclopedia of the laws of the federal republic of Nigeria.

***(Culled from the academia)***