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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 and Treatises
3. Law Journals
4. Casebooks
5. Legal Dictionaries
6. Legal Encyclopedia

Law Reports

Law reports are series of books that contain judicial opinions from a selection of case law decided by courts. Law report are a very essential part of the legal system of every country. Law reports bring consistency in the law as it reminds the administrators of justice, their past decisions, reasoning and judgments. Examples of law reports in Nigeria are: Nigeria Law Reports (NLR), Federal Supreme Court Reports (FSCR).

Law Text Books and Treatises

Textbooks summarize single specific legal topics. Treatises include textbooks and cover broader subject area. Both provide authoritative and thorough treatment of the subject area. In addition to a summary of and commentary on the law they will include tables of content, tables of cases and subject indexes. Textbooks and Treatises are not primary sources of law; however, they can have persuasive authority in the courts. Example of a treatises is Undue Bureaucracy of Treaty Making in Nigeria

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.

For example, in a journal you find an article titled **‘A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT PTOVISION OF THE NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION’** with the author making opinions toward referring to aspects of law.

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 also known as law dictionaries are dictionaries that are designed and complied to give information about terms used in the field of law. The legal dictionary is classified in Number of languages covered and Number of fields covered. It helps users to understand the legal texts they read or to acquire knowledge about legal matters. Example is the The Nigerian law dictionary.

Legal Encyclopedias

Legal encyclopedia contain brief, broad summaries of legal topics, providing introductions to legal topics, providing introductions to legal topics, providing introductions to legal topics and explaining relevant terms of art. They also provide citations to relevant primary law and sometimes give citations to relevant major law review articles. An example is Encyclopedia of the laws of the federal republic of Nigeria.