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Assignment

Discuss secondary sources of law in Nigeria

Secondary sources of law are background resources. They explain, interpret and analyze. Secondary sources are a good way to start research and often have citations to primary sources. They can merely serve as persuasive purposes, and are usually relied upon where no primary source is available or applicable.

Secondary sources often explain legal principles more thoroughly than a single case or statute, so using them can help you save time. Secondary sources also help you avoid unnecessary research, since you are tapping into work that someone else has already done on an issue. Secondary sources are particularly useful for learning the basics of a particular area of law. Also, secondary sources are useful for understanding key terms of art in an area and also identifying essential cases and statutes.

In conclusion, anything that is more than the actual law is considered secondary source.

Secondary sources of law comprise of law reports, textbooks, legal periodicals, law digests, legal dictionaries, newspapers etc. These will be explained below.

Law reports are the decisions of the courts published in volumes periodically, at such intervals as the publishers may determine. They include the reports of the decisions of the Supreme court of Nigeria, Court of Appeal, High Courts or any tribunal or court howsoever designated. The first form of law reports in Nigeria was the Nigerian Law Reports which emerged in 1881 but today they have become extinct. One trend in the law reporting system in Nigeria is unfortunately the lack of sustainability.

Textbooks or treatise are books on any legal subject or related fields. They may be written by local or foreign authors. In Nigeria, legal textbooks pf reputable standard has been written by Obilade, Nwogwugwu, Okonkwo, Kodilinye, Aguda and Professor Sagay who has written extensively on International law. Also, classical authors of outstanding textbooks on the English law include Bracton, Coke and Blackstone, Dicey, Ceheshire, Hood Phillips and Wade.

Legal periodicals are magazines, journals, brochures, newsletters, catalogues or other books or information published at fixed intervals of time

Law digests are abridgements of cases, that is, they are useful summaries of the facts, issues, arguments and decisions in judicial proceedings.

Also there are legal dictionaries where one can find brief and concise information such as the meaning of a word. Examples of legal dictionaries include Black’s Law dictionary, Stroud’s Judicial dictionary, Jowitt’s Dictionary of English Law.

Reference

Abiola Sanni, Introduction to Nigerian Legal Method

Ese Malemi, The Nigerian Legal Method

Researchguides.library.tufts.edu

Guides.library.harvard.edu

Library.highline.edu