SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW

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MATRIC NUMBER; 19/LAW01/207

Secondary sources of law are derived from the primary sources of law through examination of the primary source, or even through discussion bothering the primary sources. The secondary sources of law provides explanations to the primary sources. They are materials that discuss, explain, analyze, and critique the law. They discuss the law, but are not the law itself. Secondary sources such as law journals, encyclopedias, and treatises are a great place to start your legal research.

1)Journals: Law journals are scholarly publications covering the legal field. They publish articles that are comprehensive studies of current topics in law, generally written by professors and practitioners. Law review or journal articles are another great secondary source for legal research, valuable for the depth in which they analyze and critique legal topics, as well as their extensive references to other sources, including primary sources. They contain both lengthy articles and shorter essays by professors and lawyers etc. They focus on new emerging areas of law and they can offer more critical commentary than.

2)Legal Encyclopedias: legal encyclopedias are immense sets of books that briefly describe all of the main legal issues for a particular jurisdiction. An encyclopedias can provide a basic introduction to an area of law and will provide the user with some case and statutory citations. Legal encyclopedias will not delve deeply into an area, nor will they discuss the finer points of an area of law

3)Treaties: in this context, legal treaties are single or multi volume works dedicated to the examination of an area of law. Treaties tend to be very good at describing the law, they are good law finders, and many of the classic treaties are persuasive. Treaties tend to provide an indepth discussion of a particular area of law and will provide the researcher with references to a few cases and statutes.

4)Legal periodicals: legal periodicals articles are in-depth discussions of narrow areas of the law and legal issues. Articles in academic journals tend to revolve around very theoretical and cutting edge legal issues. Articles in practitioner oriented journals tend to be more practical. Some articles by eminent scholars can be persuasive. Occasionally, legal periodical articles can be useful for explaining the law, but often they are too theoretical for that.

5)Restatement: The restatements were developed by legal scholars initially to restate the law, and currently to describe what the law should be. In either case, restatement are very persuasive although they are not very good at describing law. They can serve as adequate law finders .