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**ASSIGNMENT**

**Secondary** **sources** **of** **law**

**What** **are** **secondary** **sources** **of** **laws**?

Secondary sources of law are background resources. They explain,interpret and analyse. They include Encyclopedias,law reviews,treaties,restatement.secondary sources are a good way to start research and often have citation to primary sources.secondary sources often explains legal principles more thoroughly than a single case or statute. So using them can help you have time.Secondary sources also help you avoid unnecessary research same time.

There exists a plethora of other sources of Nigerian law.These are mainly in documentary forms. They are important because it is in book form that are written or stated.some of these sources are law, reports ,textbooks,periodicals,journals and law digests;and law dictionaries. We shall attempt to discuss these in turns:

.**LAW** **REPORTS**

Law reports as well as an efficient law reporting system are essential for a smooth system of judicial administration. This is because in any nation where the principle of judicial precedent is in operation like Nigeria,it is only by reference to reported cases that courts and lawyers would be able to ascertain the position of laws in their areas of jurisdiction. The oldest species of law reports are the year books (1282-1537).They are regarded as the most comprehensive reports but are not criticised to have been mere notes taken by students and practitioners of laws for educational or professional purposes.

The first form of law reports in Nigeria was the Nigerian law reports,which emerged in 1881 but today they have become extinct. One regrettable trends in the Laws reporting system in Nigeria is the lack of sustainability. This has been the experience with most government and private initiatives in this regards. IN Nigeria today,we have quite a number of law reports in circulation,among which are the following:

1.Nigerian weekly law reports.(Nwlr)

2.supreme court of Nigeria judgements (scnj)

3.law reports of the courts of Nigeria (LRCN)

4.All Nigerian law reports (All nlr )

5.Federation weekly law reports(Fwlr)

**Law text, Books and treaties**

A textbook or treaties written by learned scholars and jurists constitute a very important source of Nigerian law.It is the same experience in virtually all legal systems.

Classical authors of outstanding textbooks.on the English law books which includes Braxton. IN Nigeria, legal textbooks of reputable standards have been written by Philadelphia,etc.professor Sagay has written extensively on international law. All these present a potent sources of Nigerian laws and can be authority where there is scanty or absence of judicial decisions, In which situation they could be of persuasive authorities.where such works are cited, the weight to be attached to them will depend on the personality of the author and the significance of the subjects covered.

**PERIODICALS**,**JOURNALS** **AND** **LEGAL** **DIGESTS**

These are produced in various forms and colours in Nigeria. Some are professional while some are academic and yet some are a mixture of both.For instance,in Nigeria there exists learned journals published by different law faculties as well as private laws publishers.

**Digests** are equally available for example,the digest of supreme court cases.Digests are abridgements of cases.that is ,they are careful summaries of the facts,issues,arguments and decisions In judicial proceedings.

Some foreign legal dictionaries are also available in Nigeria.some of these are jowitts Dictionary of English laws,stroud's judicial dictionary,e.t.c....All the above provide helpful guidance in interpreting Nigeria law. Other secondary sources of laws includes case books,legal Dictionaries and newspapers.

**Citation** **of** a **secondary** **sources** **of** **laws**

The citations should include the following.

1.Author

2.Title of the article (in italics or underlined)

3.Abbreviation of journals name

4.Dates as it appears on the cover(if no date of issue is available,provides the issues number and indicates the volume number before the title.

**Legal Encyclopaedia’s**

Legal Encyclopaedia’s contains briefs broad summaries of legal topics,providing introduction to legal topics and explaining relevant terms of arts.They also provide citations to relevant primary laws and sometimes give citations to relevant major law reviews articles.Here are the two major national Encyclopaedia’s:

1.**American** **Jurisprudence** **2d**(**Amjur**)

This links provides access to the table of contents for Amjur using west law.Prints volumes are located at kf154.A42.Tropical indexes are located in the last volume of every topic.

2.**Corpus** **Juris** **secundum**(**cjs**)

This links provides access to the table of contents for cjs using west laws.prints volumes are located at Kf154.c56.There are indexes for each major topics.