NAME: BABAODEH JULIAN ONYEJUMBI

COURSE CODE: LAW 102

MATRIC NUMBER:19/law01/047

ASSIGNMENT

Discuss secondary sources of law

Secondary sources of law consist of sources that explain, criticize, discuss, or help locate primary sources of law. Secondary sources of law discuss the law but are not the law itself. There are mainly in documentary form. They are important because it is in book form that written laws are stated. Some of these sources of include: Law reports, textbooks, treaties, journals and periodicals, law digests, encyclopedias and law dictionaries.

1. 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 operational like Nigeria it is only the reference to reported cases that the courts and lawyers would be able to ascertain the position of law in their area of jurisdiction. The oldest species of law reports are the *Year Books* (1282-1537). The first form of law reports in Nigeria was the Nigerian Law Reports which started in the year 1881.
2. Law textbooks: a textbook written by learned scholars and jurists constitute a very important source of Nigerian law. It is the same in almost all legal systems. Some authors of textbooks on English law include Bracton; Coke and Blackstone, Dicey; Cheshire; Hood Philips.in Nigeria some legal textbooks have been written by Obilade, Nwogwugwu and so many others. All these present are potent source of Nigerian laws and can be used or can be the authority when there is scanty or absence of judicial decisions.
3. Law Journals and periodicals: Law Journals are scholarly publications covering the legal field. They publish articles that are comprehensive studies of current topics in law, generally written by law professors and practitioners. The article generally contains on the topic, which may lead you to additional information on the subject. They are types of journals they are the paper versions which are shelved by call numbers but are not alphabetical, electronic journals and indexes.
4. Encyclopedia: a legal encyclopedia is a comprehensive set of brief articles on legal topics. It is arranged in alphabetical order, with an index generally included in the final volume. Legal encyclopedias are a great place to start your research on a new topic since they offer a general introduction to a legal topic and often include citations and additional materials. The main legal encyclopedias are

i)Corpus Juris Secondrum (C.J.S)

ii)American Jurisprudence 2nd (Am. Jur.2d)

1. Law dictionaries and reference tools: the law dictionaries assist in finding the meanings and usage of legal terms and abbreviations. For example, Black’s Law Dictionary and many more.
2. Legal Treaties: they provide a scholarly and in-depth treatment of a legal subject. They often clarify significant concepts in the area of the law covered by the treaties and provide citations to pertinent cases and other primary materials.
3. Law digests: Digests are abridgements of cases that is they are useful summaries of the facts, issues, arguments and decisions in judicial proceedings. For instance, the Digest of Supreme Court Cases.

REFERENCE: Introduction to Nigerian Legal Method and also the Internet.