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**SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA**

The secondary sources of law comes as a subtopic under the topic Sources of law where we also have the primary sources too. The secondary sources of law are mainly in documentary form. They are very important because it is in book form that written laws are stated.

The sources of secondary law:

* Law reports
* Textbooks
* Periodicals
* Journals and law digests
* Law dictionaries

**Law reports**

**Law reports** or **reporters** are series of books that contain judicial opinions from a selection of case law  decided by courts. When a particular judicial opinion is referenced, the law report series in which the opinion is printed will determine the case citation  format. 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 by reference to reported cases that courts and lawyers would be able to ascertain the position if law in their areas of jurisdiction.

The oldest form of law reports are the Year books(1282-1537). They are usually regarded as the most comprehensive reports but are criticised to have been mere notes just taken by students and practitioners of law for educational or professional purposes.

The first form of law reports in Nigeria was the Nigerian Law Reports which emerged in 1881 but the are now in extinct this is because of the lack of sustainability in Nigeria.

In Nigeria today the law reports in circulation are:

* Nigerian Weekly Law Reports (NWLR) which was published in 1985
* Supreme Court of Nigeria Judgements (SCNJ)
* Law Report of the Courts of Nigeria (LRCN)
* All Nigerian Law Reports (ALLNLR)
* Federation Weekly Law Reports

**Law texts, books and treaties**

A textbook or treatise 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 include Bracton; Coke and Blackstone. Others like Dicey; Cheshire; Hood Phillips; Wade have continued to emerge over the years.

In Nigeria, legal textbooks of reputable standards have been written by Obilade; Nwogwugwu; Okonkwo; Kodilinye; Aguda, among many others. Professor Sagay has written widely on International law. All these present a potent source of Nigerian Law and can be authority where there is scanty or absence of Judicial decisions

**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 an admixture of both.

Digests are equally available for example, the Digest of Supreme Court Cases. Digests are abridgements of cases, that is, they are useful summaries of the facts, issues, arguments and decisions in judicial proceedings.

**Casebooks**

Another secondary sources of maw is **A** **casebook,** this is a type of textbook used primarily by students in law schools. Rather than simply laying out the legal doctrine  in a particular area of study, a casebook contains excerpts from legal cases in which the law of that area was applied. It is then up to the student to analyze the language of the case in order to determine what rule was applied and how the court applied it. Casebooks sometimes also contain excerpts from law review  articles and legal treaties, historical notes, editorial commentary, and other related materials to provide background for the cases. Most casebooks are authored by law professors, usually with two, three, or four authors, at least one of whom will be a professor at the top of his or her field in the area under discussion.

Other secondary sources of law are :

**Newspapers and Indexes**