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**Question: Discuss Secondary Sources of Law**.

In order to know what the law comprises of you have to derive it from various sources of law. Sources of law can be defined as the places to which a legal practitioner or a judge turns to in order to answer a legal problem. Sources of law are divided into two the primary source and the secondary sources, primary sources are the actual law in the form of constitutions, court cases, statutes. Secondary sources may restate the law but they also discuss, analyse, describe, explain critique it as well.

Secondary sources are a great place to begin your research. Although the primary sources of law case law, statutes, regulations establish the law on a given topic, it is often difficult to quickly locate answers in them. 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 of law.**

secondary sources of law are the sources of law that do not carry a dominate legal weight and binding effects. The legal authorities contain in this kind of sources are the diluted and persuasive which are not binding on any court of law. According to Beredugo (2009), secondary sources of law are less significant sources of law that carry barely persuasive legal authority or effects and are therefore, not binding in any court of law.

Secondary sources can be useful in court of law or resorted to where the court finds the opinion or fact on underlying the authority contained therein. Secondary sources can also be referred to in court if its supports the authority of the primary sources.

Examples of secondary sources of Nigeria law according to Beredugo includes:

1. Decisions of court of foreign countries.
2. International conventions, treaties, and resolutions of international bodies;
3. Statement or opinion of juris and learned authors contained in law textbook, journals, periodicals, dictionaries, letters, speeches, and interviews;

* Law text, books and treatises: in Nigeria, legal textbooks of reputable standards have been written by Obilade, Nwogwugwu, Okonkwo, Aguda and many others Professor Sagay has written extensively on international law. All these present a potent source of Nigeria law can be authority where there is scanty or absence of judicial decisions, in which situations can be of persuasive authorities.

1. Legal opinions contained in nullified judgement.
2. Law report: law report is well as an efficient law reporting system are essecial for a smooth system of judicial administration. These is because in any nation were 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 of law in their areas of jurisdiction.

The distinction between primary and secondary sources of law is very useful in determining authorities to follow in the law of courts. If a case is brought before a court and one party uses a primary source of law as his authority while the other uses secondary sources the scale of justice would tilt in favour of the person who presents primary source of law.