Name: Duguri Kwaji Peace Department: LAW

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Assignment: - Discuss secondary sources of law in Nigeria.

Majorly, there are five sources of Nigerian Law namely: Customary and Islamic law, Received English Law, Nigerian Local Legislation including Delegated Legislation, Judicial Precedents, Law reports and Textbooks. These sources are further classifies into primary and secondary sources of Law. Laws made by Nigerian Legislature from primary sources.

The sources of Nigerian law can be divided into primary sources of law and secondary sources of law. Secondary sources of law is a great place to begin your research, they are background resources, they explain, interpret and analyze. Although the primary sources of law-case law, statutes, and 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 done on an issue.

The distinction between primary and secondary source of law is very useful in determining authorities to follow in the law courts. If a case is brought before a court and one party uses a primary source of law as his authority while the other makes use of secondary sources, the scale of justice would tilt in the favor of the person who presents primary sources of law. Secondary sources of law are only made use of whenever there are no primary sources of law to fall back on. Secondary sources are a good way to start research and often have citations to primary sources.

Secondary sources of Nigerian law are the indirect ways through which we get our law. Save for law reports. Secondary sources of Nigerian law are of persuasive authority in the law courts. Law reports are only authoritative due to the fact that they serve as the vehicle through which judicial precedent is carried. Examples of secondary sources of law are:

1. Law Reports
2. Textbooks and Treatises
3. Periodicals, Journals, and Legal Digests
4. Casebooks
5. Legal Dictionaries

[*Black’s Law Dictionary]*

1. Newspapers
2. Legal Encyclopedias
3. Restatements

Secondary sources are particularly useful for:

* Learning the basics of a particular area of law
* Understanding key terms of art in an idea
* Identifying essential cases and statutes