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MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/082

COURSE: LEGAL METHOD 2

COURSE CODE: LAW 102

LECTURER: MISS MUSA- AGBONENI OMOMEN

ASSIGNMENT: DISCUSS THE SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA

SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA

Secondary sources of law are scholarly materials written by legal experts. They provide a good overview of the law and the texts or footnotes can refer to relevant legislation or case law. Though not binding, some materials found in secondary sources of law can have persuasive value in court. Secondary sources are useful for putting the law into context and often will lead a researcher to relevant legislation and cases. Secondary sources of law assist in criticizes, discussing and locating primary law.

There are different sources of secondary law in Nigeria and they include: law reports, legal encyclopedia, periodicals, journals, legal dictionaries, legal digests, treatises etc.

Law reports: Law reports are the compilations of different cases and they are stated clearly and not abbreviated. Supreme court reports are usually all the cases dealt within the supreme court. Law reports can also be referred to as the compilation of the judgments of other courts and such judgments may cover a broad area like company law, constitutional law etc. law reports are secondary sources of materials because the law can be found in them. They consist of the decisions of the supreme court of Nigeria, court of appeal or any tribunal whether still in existence or abolished. Examples of law reports include Nigerian law reports, Nigerian commercial law reports, West region of Nigeria law reports etc.

Legal journals: Legal journals are scholarly or academic publication presenting commentary of emerging or topical developments in the law and often specializing in a particular area of the law or legal information specific to a jurisdiction usually written by legal experts. They contribute to the development of the law by influencing statutory law, case laws etc. They can lead to an additional information on a particular subject as they contain citations to primary and secondary sources on the topic being discussed.

Legal treatises: Legal treatises are publications that present highly-organized and detailed explanation of a specific area of law, example, contract, tort or criminal. Treatises are published as a single-volume or multivolume sets. Most treatises are updated by the use of supplements. Treatises are said to be good at describing the law as they are god law finders and classic treatises are persuasive.

Legal periodicals: Legal periodicals contain articles about emerging areas of law and are written by professors, legal practitioners. Commonly used legal periodicals include law reviews, bar journals. They are helpful in locating cases and statutes on a particular subject area. Articles in periodicals describe, analyse and comment on the current state of the law.

Legal encyclopedia: Legal encyclopedia is very similar to a traditional encyclopedia but focused on legal topics. Entries into legal encyclopedias are usually few paragraphs long and tend to contain citations limited to pertinent cases and statutes. Legal encyclopedias are a good place to start a research in an unfamiliar area of law, because the citations following the encyclopedia entry will direct you to the seminal law on the subject.