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COURSE CODE:LAW102

COURSE TITLE:LEGAL METHOD 2

DEPARTMENT :LAW

QUESTION:

Discuss secondary sources of law in Nigeria.

ANSWERS:

Secondary sources of Nigerian law are the indirect ways through which we get our law.

secondary sources of law are 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.The secondary sources of law are derived from the primary sources of law. Secondary sources of law provides explanations to the primary sources of law. Examples of secondary sources of law are:

Law reports

Text books and treaties

Periodicals, journals,and legal digests

Casebooks

Legal dictionaries

Newspapers

Secondary sources of law are only made use of whenever there are no primary sources of law to fall back on. For example: if a case is brought before a court and one party uses a primary source of law as his authority while the other party uses the secondary sources of law,the scale of justice would tilt in favour of the person who represents primary sources of law.

LAW REPORTS:

Law reports or are series of books that contains 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.

TEXTBOOKS AND TREATIES:

These are ordinary text,specialized or general texts. They are also reference books in which legal practitioners could for back on for the purpose of research.

PERIODICALS, JOURNALS, AND LEGAL DIGESTS.

These are published at regular intervals. Digests are the major means of accessing case law by topic. A digest is both a subject index and a topical outline of case law.

CASE BOOKS

  A casebook 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

LEGAL DICTIONARIES

 A legal dictionary contains the definitions of legal terms taken from a variety of sources. They are the first place you should look when you do not understand what a legal term means. The two most commonly used legal dictionaries are Black's Law Dictionary and Ballentine's Law Dictionary.

NEWSPAPERS:

Newspapers can be defined as a printed publication (usually issued daily or weekly) consisting of folded unstable sheets and containing news, articles, advertisements, and correspondence