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COLLEGE: LAW

MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/010

COURSE: LAW 102

Discuss secondary sources of law in Nigeria. Times New Roman, front 12, justify your work.

Secondary sources of law are the sources of law that do not carry a dominant legal weight and binding effect. The legal authorities contain in these kind of sources are diluted and persuasive which are not binding on any court of law. According to Beredugo (2009), secondary sources of law are less significance sources of law that carry barely persuasive legal authority or effect and are therefore, not binding on any court of law. Secondary sources can be useful in court of law or resorted to where the court finds the opinion or fact underlying the authority contained therein. Secondary sources can also be referred to in court if it supports the authorities of the primary sources. Examples of secondary sources of Nigerian law according to Beredugo includes:

(a) **Statements or opinions of jurists and learned authors contained in law reports, letters, speeches, and interviews**; They are essential for a smooth system of judicial administration. This is because in any nation where 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 oldest species of law reports are the Year Books (1282-1537). They are regarded as the most comprehensive reports but are criticized to have been mere notes taken by students and practitioners of law for educational or professional purposes.

(b**) 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 others. All these present a potent source of Nigerian law and can be authority where there is scanty or absence of judicial decisions, in which situation they could be of persuasive authorities. Where such works are cited, the weight to be attached to them will depend on the personality of the author and the significance of the subject covered.

(c) **Periodicals, journals** are produced in various forms and colors in Nigeria. Some are professional while some are academic, and yet some are an admixture of both. For instance, in Nigeria, there exist learned journals published by different law faculties as well as private law publishers.

(d**) Legal Digests** are equally secondary sources of law in Nigeria, 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.

(e**) Some foreign legal dictionaries** are also available in Nigeria. Some of these are Jowitt’s dictionary of English Law, Stroud’s judicial Dictionary, etc. All these aid the interpretation of Nigerian law.

(f) **legal opinions contained in n decisions of courts of foreign countries**

 **(g) International conventions, treaties, and resolutions of international bodies;**

 Secondary sources of law also include all sources that provide helpful introductions to legal subjects, synopses of decisions, statutes, and regulations in a given field, analyses of trends and historical background of law, explanation of new or difficult concepts, descriptions and analysis of the law and its developments and citations to primary sources through footnotes and annotations.

Secondary sources are particularly useful for:

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