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**DISCUSS SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA**

THE SOURCES OF NIGERIAN LAW REFERS TO THE MATERIALS THROUGH WHICH A LEGAL PRACTITIONER OR A COURT OR JUDGE WOULD FIND RELIABLE AUTHORITIES FOR A PARTICULAR LEGAL QUESTION. THE SOURCES OF LAW CAN BE CLASSIFIED INTO 2 ASPECTS, NAMELY; PRIMARY SOURCES AND SECONDARY SOURCES. THE PRIMARY SOURCES INCLUDE ENGLISH LAW (CONSISTING OF THE RECEIVED ENGLISH LAW AS WELL AS THE EXTENDED ENGLISH LAW); NIGERIAN LEGISLATION AND SUBSIDIARY ENACTMENTS; NIGERIAN CASE LAW OR JUDICIAL PRECEDENT; AND CUSTOMARY LAW RULES.THE SECONDARY SOURCES OF NIGERIAN LAW COMPRISES OF LAW REPORTS; TEXTBOOKS; LEGAL PERIODICALS; LAW DIGESTS; LEGAL DICTIONARIES; NEWSPAPERS AMONG OTHERS. THE PRIMARY SOURCES COULD HAVE BINDING FORCE ON A COURT OF LAW IN NIGERIA WHEARAS THE MENTIONED SECONDARY SOURCES CAN MERELY SERVE PERSUASIVE PURPOSES, AND ARE USUALLY RELIED UPON WHERE NO PRIMARY SOURCE IS AVAILABLE OR APPLICABLE.

**THE LAW REPORTS**

LAW REPORTS AS WELL AS AN EFFICIENT LAW REPORTING SYSTEM ARE ESSENTIAL FOR A SMOOTH SYSTEM OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION.THIS IS BECAUSE IN ANY NATION WHERE 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 OLDEST SPECIES OF LAW REPORTS ARE THE YEAR BOOKS (1282-1537).THEY ARE REGARDED AS THE MOST NOTES TAKEN BY STUDENTS AND PRACTIONERS OF LAW FOR EDUCATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES.

THE FIRST FORM OF LAW REPORTS IN NIGERIA WAS THE NIGERIAN LAW REPORTS WHICH EMERGED IN 1881 BUT TODAY THEY HAVE BECOME EXTINCT. ONE REGRETTABLE TREND IN, THE LAW REPORTING SYSTEM IN NIGERIA IS THE LACK OF SUSTAINABILITY. THIS HAS BEEN THE EXPERIENCE WITH MOST GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES IN THIS REGARDS.IN NIGERIA TODAY, WE HAVE QUITE A NUMBER OF LAW REPORTS IN CIRCULATION, AMONG WHICH ARE THE FOLLOWING: 1. **NIGERIAN WEEKLY LAW REPORTS (NWLR)** PUBLISHED SINCE 1985; 2.**SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA JUDGMENTS (SCNJ**); 3. **LAW REPORTS OF THE COURTS OF NIGERIA (LRCN**); 4.**ALL NIGERIAN LAW REPORTS (ALL NLR)**; 5.**FEDERATION WEEKLY LAW REPORTS**.

**LAW TEXTS, BOOKS AND TREATISES**

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 MANY OTHERS.PROFESSOR SAGAY HAS WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY ON INTERNATIONAL LAWS.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 THEN WILL DEPEND ON THE PERSONALITY OF THE AUTHOR AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SUBJECT COVERED.

**PERIODICALS, JOURNALS AND LEGAL DIGESTS**

THESE ARE PRODUCED IN VARIOUS FORMS AND COLOURS 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.

DIGESTS ARE EQUALLY AVAILABLE FOR EXAMPLE, THE DIGEST OF SUPREME COURT CASES.DIGEST ARE ABRIGEMENTS OF CASES, THAT IS, THEY ARE USEFUL SUMMARIES OF THE FACTS, ISSUES, ARGUMENTS AND DECISIONS IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

SOME FOREIGN LEGAL DICTIONARIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN NIGERIA.SOME OF THESE ARE JOWETT’S DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH LAW, STROUD’S JUDICIAL DICTIONARY E.T.C.

**REFERENCE**: INTRODUCTION TO NIGERIAN LEGAL METHOD, EDITED BY ABIOLA SANNI LLB. (HONS.), LLM. , B.L. (SENIOR LECTURER, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS). 2006.