**NAME**: ALADENOLA OLUWADEMILADE

**MATRIC NO**: 19/LAW01/028

**LEVEL**: 100

**ASSIGNMENT**: DISCUSS ON THE SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA

**SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW**

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­We can classify the sources of Nigerian law into two aspects namely primary sources and secondary sources. The primary sources of law 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, including Islamic law where applicable. The secondary sources of Nigerian law comprises of law reports; textbooks; legal periodicals; law digests; legal dictionaries; newspapers, among others. Moreover only the primary sources could have binding force on a court of law in Nigeria whereas the mentioned secondary sources can merely serve persuasive purposes, and are usually relied upon where no primary source is available or applicable. Examples of secondary sources of law;

* **LAW REPORTS**: This refers to compilation of judgment of other courts, judgments may cover a broad area like constitutional law, company law, and administrative law. They are the decisions of the courts published in volumes periodically, at such intervals as the publishers may determine. Law reports include the reports of the decisions of the:
1. Supreme Court of Nigeria
2. Court of Appeal
3. High Courts; or
4. Any tribunal or court howsoever designated, and whether existing or abolished, such as the West African Court of Appeal (WACA), that has been abolished and whether it is a Nigerian law report; or foreign law report

Examples of law reports in Nigeria are numerous. Law reports in Nigeria include:

* **The Nigerian Weekly Law Reports** **(NWLR)** is evidently the most popular and reliable law reporting company in Nigeria. It was established in 1985 by late Chief Ganiyu Oyesola Fawehinmi, SAN (1938-2009) to boost the effectiveness of law reporting in Nigeria.
* **All Nigerian Law Reports:** The All Nigerian Law Reports (All NLR) started its activities in 1961 but was abandoned in the 1970s. This publication contains reports of the federal Supreme Court of Nigeria from 1961 to 1963 and the Supreme Court of Nigeria from 1963 to 1990 and that of High Courts. A.N.L.R also report cases of the Court of Appeal and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.
* **University of Ife Law Reports**: The University of Ife Law Report (UILR) started in 1971. It is the first University Law Report in Nigeria. UILR contains reports of the cases decided by the Supreme Court, the Western Court of Appeal and the High Courts. UILR stopped its publication after 1977 for some unknown reasons.
* **Supreme Court of Justice of Nigeria**: The Supreme Court of Nigeria Judgment (SCJN) is also a well-known private law report in Nigeria. This publication has been active since 1991. It was established by Liberty Publications Ltd to deal exclusively with Supreme Court of Nigeria Judgments on monthly basis.
* River States Law Reports(RSLR)
* Plateau State Law Report( PLR)
* Federal Weekly Law Reports(FWLR)
* **LAW TEXTBOOKS AND TREATISES**: A textbook or treatise written by scholars and jurists constitute a very important source of Nigerian law. 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 law. 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 work is cited, the weight to be attached to them will depend on the personality of the author and the significance of the subject covered.
* **PERIODICALS**: This is a magazine , journal , brochure , newsletter, catalogue or other book, or information published at fixed intervals of time, such , as once a month, bi-annually, that is, twice a year, once a year and so forth, whatever its name or field of specialization. A periodical may be Nigerian , or foreign
* **JOURNALS**: Law journals of various names and fields of specialization are published by law faculties, bodies and persons across the world. A journal may be Nigerian: In Nigeria, law journals are published across the law faculties of Nigerian universities, and also by private bodies, and persons across the country. They are so numerous. Examples include:
* LASU Law Journal- Lagos State University
* Ambrose Ali University Law Journal- AAU, Ekpoma
* Ahmadu Bello University Law Journal- ABU, Zaria
* Igbinedion University Law Journal- IU. Okada
* Nigerian Law and Practice Journal- Nigerian Law School
* University of Calabar Law Journal- Unical
* **LEGAL DIGESTS**: These are the abridgements of the cases, that is, they are useful summaries of the facts, issues, arguments and decisions in judicial proceedings. An example is the Digest of Supreme Court Cases.
* **REFERENCE BOOKS**: These are books containing facts and information, about various subjects, such as, a dictionary, encyclopedia, catalogue, and brochure, and telephone directory, list of statutes, and so forth, which is checked to find information on a particular subject. A reference book may be foreign or local, examples of reference books are numerous and include:
1. Halsbury’s Laws of England
2. Encyclopedia of the Laws of England
3. Stroud’s Judicial Dictionary
4. Index to Nigerian Weekly Law Reports- by Gani Fawehinmi
5. All England Reports Consolidated Tables and Index
6. The Bar and the Bench –by Gani Fawehinmi
7. The Current Law Citators 1977-1978, covers all cases for the specified period
8. Black’s Law Dictionary
9. Osborne Concise Law Dictionary
10. Dictionary of Law –by L.B. Curzo