NAME: AMAPAKABO ABIYE BELEMA

MATRIC NO; 19/LAW01/033

COLLEGE: LAW

LEVEL: 100

COURSE: LEGAL METHOD

SOURCES OF LAW: SECONDARY SOURCES

Sources of law are the origins of law, the binding rules that enable any state to govern its territory. It may sometime refer to the sovereign or to the seat of power from which the law derives its validity. We have primary and secondary sources which the primary sources of law include

The legislation

Nigerian case law

English law

Customary law

Constitution

There are different secondary sources of law like Legal journals, Interviews, periodicals and newspapers, Dictionaries, Bibliographics and general references and Government publications.

***LEGAL JOURNAL:*** This is the most current secondary source of law because of its frequent publication. They contain scholarly articles, commentaries, notes and comments on current legal problems. Legal journals that are of general nature may contain articles reflecting various subject background and topical issues in law. Some of the standard foreign law journals as secondary source of law include The Cambridge Law Journals, Harvard Law Journal, Yale Law Journal. Remarkable advancement has been recorded in the area of local periodicals publishing. Some typical examples of academic and professional local journals as secondary source of law include the Nigerian Law Journal, The Nigerian Journal of Contemporary Law.

***INTERVIEWS, PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPER:*** Interviews can serve as secondary source of law because these legal luminaries are regarded as AUTHORITIES and therefore, their speeches or legal letters written by them are persuasive and form secondary source of law. Newspaper and magazine clippings provide the most accessible current sources of research materials and therefore form secondary sources of law. Articles in newspapers often cover wide areas of subject matters spanning every conceivable field of human endeavour.

***DICTIONARIES:*** Dictionaries are indispensable sources of law. Libraries still keep some Standard English Language Dictionaries and lexicons. These include among others, the Oxford English Dictionary, Chambers English Dictionary and Webster International English Dictionary. They don’t just help in verifying words but to help in the structure of the legal style. Legal dictionaries may either be exclusively in English or bi-lingual. Examples of standard English Language Legal Dictionaries include Black law dictionary and stroud’s judicial dictionary. examples of bi-lingual dictionaries may include English- French, English- Italian, English- Latin and English- Arabic dictionaries.

***BIBLIOGRAPHICS AND GENERAL REFERENCES:*** A bibliography is a publication that lists the topic or titles of materials available in a given subject. It is usually arranged in alphabetical order by compilation of legal bibliography is the preserve of the professional law librarian. Examples of legal bibliography include JEGEDE’S ‘’NIGERIAN LEGAL BIBLIOGRAPHY’’ (1993) which states detailed listing of invaluable source materials on various aspect of Nigerian law. General Reference is usually at the end of a chapter of a book or article for assistance in finding a specific information.

***GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS:*** This has been a great source of law for the fact that it is from the government for instance any information contained in the Gazette are said to be issued by authority and is deemed to be authentic. Official publications include books, pamphlets and pictorial items issued by the government printer they also consist laws, directives, edicts, bye – laws and important announcement relating to the state.

***REFERENCE***

Textbook: Legal Method, National Open University Of Nigeria.