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MATRIC NUMBER: 19/law01/165

Level:100

SECONDARY SOURCES

Commonly, secondary laws mean delegated legislation made by a public officer, administrative authority, statutory body or government department or public agency, pursuant to a primary law, which has delegated powers to the public authority to make such delegated legislation otherwise known as subordinate or subsidiary legislation. In other words, secondary law means laws which specify sanctions and the circumstances in which such sanctions are to be imposed on those who contravene primary law, that is law which define rights and duties.

A) Law Reports

These are reported cases of different courts which are compiled to enable Courts (Judges) and Lawyers make reference to in order to ascertain the position of the law. This helps to foster the Principles of Judicial Precedent. Law reporting is the systematic publication of decided cases in a book form called LAW REPORT. These are books written by Learned Scholars and Jurists. In Nigeria, we have Law of Contract by Itse Sagay, Law of Evidence by Akinola Aguda, Constitutional Law in Nigeria by P.A. Oluyede. Abiola Sanni's Introduction to Nigerian Legal Methods. It is important to note that courts are not bound to follow the submission of an author. See also Learning the Law by Granville Williams

The first Law Report in Nigeria is the Nigeria Law Report (NLR) which emerged in 1881. Today, we have quite a number of Law Reports. These include:

Nigerian Weekly Law Reports (NWLR) published since 1985 by Gani Fawehinmi.

Supreme Court of Nigeria Judgments (SCNJ)

Federation Weekly Law Report (FWLR)

All Federation Weekly Law Report (ALL-FWLR)

B) Law Textbooks

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C)Legal Periodicals - Legal Journals and Law Review and Bar Journals

Legal Periodicals contain articles about emerging areas of the law, highlight developments and changes in the existing law. Common Legal Periodicals include Law/Legal Journals, Law Reviews and Bar Journals. There are Professional and Academic Journals, Journals published by Law Faculties, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Nigerian Bar Journals and those by Private Law Publishers. Law Journal articles usually go through a process called Peer- Review before publication.

D)Law Digest

A Law digest is a means of accessing case law by topic. It lists cases dealing with a specific subject and briefly summarises the points of law discussed in the case. It is essentially an index to case law.

E)Legal Dictionaries

There also Dictionaries which include law dictionaries e.g Black' s Law Dictionary which give definitions to words related to law.