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# An outsider takes up the front-running in new job

A HORSE racing fan, Mr Ronald Arculli's appointment to the Legislative Council could be regarded as that of a rank outsider scoring a victory.

Even he was surprised. "My first reaction was 'why me?'. I'm still asking that question," he said. Doubtless he will have plenty of time to answer it during his three-year term which starts on October 12.

A partner in one of the largest law firms in town, the 49-year-old father of two said he would concern himself with financial and property matters during his tenure.

He has been closely involved in these fields for the past 14 years, apart from sitting in various Government committees.

After completing his secondary education at St Joseph's College, he studied law at Lincoln's Inn, England, in 1958.

On graduation, he returned to Hongkong in 1961 where he practised as a barrister until 1974, when he joined Sun Hung Kai Securities as a legal adviser.

There, he reported to the group's then chairman, the late Fung King-hey. He left the company in 1975 but remained "very close" to the group. "I'm still on the board as a director," he said.

In 1976 he qualified as a solicitor and joined the firm where he is one of 16 partners, and which specialises in real estate and commercial law.

Although Mr Arculli said he did not know why he had been appointed a Legco member, he felt his professional background had a lot to do with it.

"I suspect that they (the Government) probably wanted people to represent a broad spectrum of Hongkong," he said.

"My work here puts me very close to the property sector, to the financial markets and, therefore, I suppose I have, as it were, my ears to the ground."

The ground is wide for Mr Arculli because of his involvement in many committees. These include the steering committee which resulted in the Land Development Corporation being set up and involvement "from time to time" in consultations on housing projects between the Government and the Real Estate Association, for whom he helps out as an unofficial adviser.

Mr Arculli has also been on the advisory board to the Commissioner of Police for the Police Trust Fund from 1973 to 1984 and on the Town Planning Board from 1978 to 1985

**ONG HOCK CHUAN** meets racehorse part-owner and lawyer Mr Ronald Arculli who will sit on the Legislative Council as an appointed member when the council reconvenes after the summer break.

and, in 1985, he became a member of the Deposit Taking Advisory Committee, a post he holds today.

He was also a member of the board of review under the Inland Revenue Ordinance and a member of the Judicial Service Commission from 1983 to 1985 and, from 1987, has been on the board of directors of the Ocean Park Corporation.

Mr Arculli has also been active in legal circles, being a secretary and then treasurer of the Bar Association while still a barrister.

He now sits on three Law Society committees: the committee for financial law, the disciplinary committee panel and the claims committee.

On his future in Legco, Mr Arculli said: "Obviously I will look at all issues, but to be sensible, I will concentrate on issues where I am familiar."

He listed these issues as lands and works, tax, and financial matters.

The subject closest to his heart is finance and he said he would like to help the Government develop the stock market and the debt market.

"I think in the financial sector I would like to see that the stock market in Hongkong be developed further. We have a fairly active stock market but we don't really have an active debt market," he said.

He would also like to promote the development of the market for shares quoted for smaller companies and younger companies in terms of capital and reinvestment in Hongkong.

"There must be a fair amount of business and manufacturing concerns which need heavier capital commitment for replacement of machinery, expansion or modernisation and I think anything in the capital or financial markets that encourages that must be in Hongkong's long-term interest," he said.

Mr Arculli also resists being labelled. "I'd like to think of myself simply as open-minded. There may be issues (in Legco) where I would be seen as conservative and other issues where I will be seen as a liberal," he said.

In his spare time, Mr Arculli listens to classical music, plays golf occasionally and tennis even less and indulges in horses.

"I love horses," he said, adding that he shares two horses — Six Clubs and Victory Valet — with former Exco member Sir Oswald Cheung.

"We're expecting a third horse sometime next month," he said.