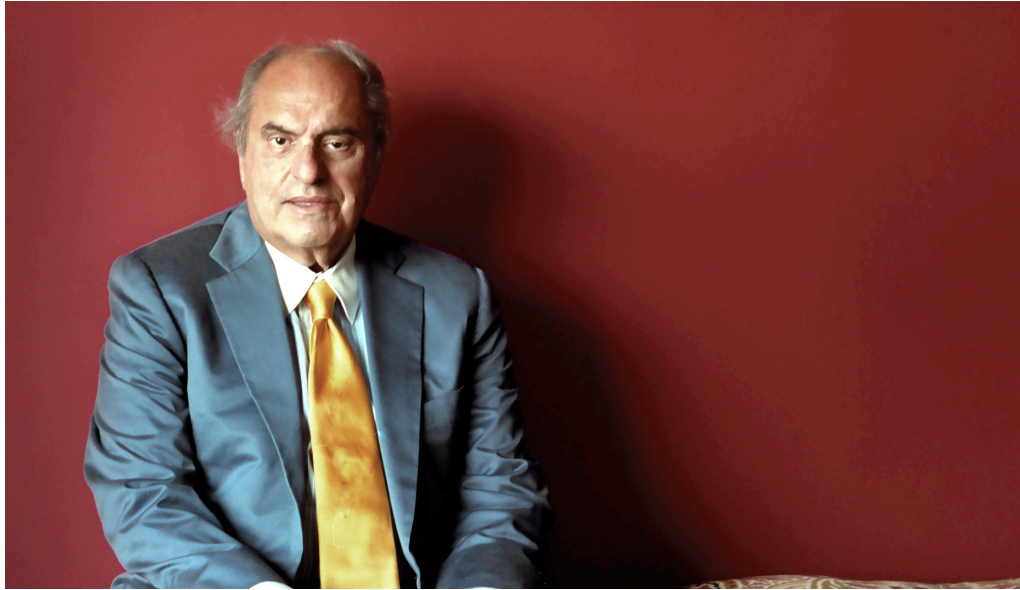


Secrets of the Self-Made

## Leon Charney

We play 20 questions with this billionaire



**Net Worth:** \$1.5 billion

**Age:** 67

**Source of Wealth:**  
Real estate

**1. What is the difference between a millionaire and a billionaire (besides the three extra zeros)?**

Reverence for humility, isolation, envy, superficial compliments and lost relatives coming out of the woodwork.

**2. Is sleep overrated?**

Absolutely not.

**3. As you became wealthy, what relationships did you leave behind?**

Jealous compatriots.

**4. What event will touch off the next economic crisis?**

Russia's dominance on the supply of oil.

**5. What's the bigger turn-on: the chase or the kill?**

The chase.

**6. Whom do you turn to for advice?**

No one.

**7. Your house is on fire. You can save one thing besides your family. What do you grab on your way out the door?**

Great books.

**8. Is writing checks to charity effective philanthropy?**

Usually not.

**9. What is the best bar on the planet?**

House of worship.

**10. The estate tax: yes or no?**

No.

**11. How much cash do you usually carry in your wallet?**

None.

**12. You can be James Bond or Michael Jordan for an evening. Who do you choose?**

Neither.

**13. Where do most of your deals go down (restaurants, golf courses, poker table, cellphone)?**

Restaurants.

**14. How do you spot a liar?**

Shifty eyes.

**15. You can have a front-row seat to any event in history. Where is your time machine taking you?**

I was there: Camp David.

**16. What are the first and last questions you ask in any job interview?**

How did you feel when you walked in? How did you feel when you walked out?

**17. What's the coolest number in your cell phone?**

My kids'.

**18. What is the future of the U.S. dollar?**

As I told the Securities and Exchange Commissioner in China, we have no issue because every dollar states in God We Trust. Unfortunately, I told him, the communists don't have that option.

**19. Will the government be cutting Social Security checks in 20 years?**

Yes.

**20. You have \$100,000 to invest. What do you do with it?**

Invest in medical technology.