



Omar G. Jorge Peña Biography

Omar G. Jorge Peña is the CEO of Compare Foods in Charlotte and Chairman of Aurora Grocery Group, which operates twenty-four supermarkets under the Compare Foods and GalaFresh Supermarkets banners throughout the East Coast of the United States.

Founded in 1989 by the Peña family, Compare Foods is the largest ethnic supermarket chain on the East Coast, with stores from Massachusetts to South Carolina. Omar is a second-generation grocer, working in the family business beginning in his teenage years. In 2009, Omar accepted a position as a partner in the company and relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina to manage the Compare Foods stores in the region. In 2012, together with his family, Omar led the creation and was named the Chairman of a new family holding company, Aurora Grocery Group (AGG). AGG serves as the primary bargaining entity for the 24 supermarkets. In 2015, AGG debuted the GalaFresh Farms banner, focused on the new generation of Latino customers. Today, Omar also serves as the primary owner and CEO of the Compare Foods supermarkets in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Omar obtained his BA from St. John's University, majoring in Government & Politics. He also graduated with a Juris Doctor from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law - Yeshiva University and is admitted to practice law in New York. He practiced as a business attorney in New York before moving to Charlotte.

Omar is actively involved in contributing to the community. He served two terms as the Chairman of the Latin American Coalition, the largest Latino advocacy and cultural organization in North Carolina. In 2014, He was appointed by Charlotte Mayor Dan Clodfelter to serve on the Charlotte Immigration Integration Task Force. Omar also serves on the following Boards of Directors: The Food Marketing Institute, the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association, and the Carolinas Food Industry Council, in which he's currently serving as President.

Omar and his wife, Miriam, live in Charlotte and are the proud parents of twin boys, Michael and Gabriel.