



# Operators of Scheme That Targeted Hispanic Consumers Are Banned From Telemarketing Under Settlement with FTC

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## Defendants Falsely Promised Consumers Could Get Big Returns by Selling High-End Goods

FOR RELEASE

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Cream Group, Inc., which operates as Oro Marketing, and its mastermind Sami Charchian have agreed to a permanent ban on telemarketing to settle Federal Trade Commission charges that they targeted Spanish-speaking women with false promises that they could make money reselling brand-name goods, such as Gucci and Ralph Lauren.

The agency alleged that, far from fulfilling their promises, the California-based defendants charged hundreds of dollars up-front for shoddy, generic products. The FTC settlements require Oro and Sami Charchian to turn over virtually all of their assets to the agency, and prohibit them from deceiving consumers in any future sales pitches.

“These defendants preyed on people who were just trying to make an honest living,” said Jessica Rich, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection. “Consumers are better off now that the defendants are out of the telemarketing business.”

According to the FTC’s [complaint](#), [Oro and its principals charged consumers](#) between \$400 and \$490, and then shipped them off-brand products instead of the brand-name products they had promised. Consumers who refused to pay for the products were threatened with arrest, phony lawsuits, referrals to immigration authorities, and other intimidating statements.

On December 3, 2013, a U.S. district court judge entered an [order temporarily halting Oro’s business practices](#). The judge subsequently granted the FTC’s request for a preliminary injunction, appointed a receiver, and froze the company’s assets pending trial.

One [final order imposes a \\$5,170,953 judgment against Cream Group, Inc. and Sami Charchian](#), equal to the total revenues of their telemarketing scheme. The judgment will be partially suspended after they have turned over virtually all of their assets to the FTC, and will become due in full if they are later found to have misrepresented their financial condition. In addition, the order requires the relief defendants to transfer rental properties they own to the court-appointed receiver to sell.

The [other final order imposes a judgment of \\$375,000 against John Charchian](#), representing his ill-gotten gains from the telemarketing scheme.

## Information for Consumers

The FTC has [information for consumers](#) in both English and Spanish to help them avoid telemarketing and business opportunity scams.

The Commission vote approving the two proposed final orders was 5-0. They were filed in the U.S. Court for the Central District of California, and have been signed by the judge.

The defendants in the case are Cream Group, also doing business as Terra Nova, TNT, Inc. and CRM, Inc.; Sami Charchian, also doing business as Oro Marketing, Inc., Modo, Modo Industry, Oro Max, Casa de Oro, Casa de Moda, Oro Mundo, and Nation/Modo, individually and as an owner or director of Cream Group, Inc.; John Charchian, a/k/a Djahangir Charchian and Jahangir John Charchian, also doing business as Oro Marketing, Inc., Modo, Modo Industry, Oro Max, Casa de Oro, Casa de Moda, Oro Mundo, and Nation/Modo, individually and as an owner or director of Cream Group, Inc. The relief defendants are Spring Acres, LLC and Bahereh Ramin.

**NOTE:** Stipulated orders have the force of law when approved and signed by the District Court judge.

The Federal Trade Commission works for consumers to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices and to provide information to help spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint in English or Spanish, visit the FTC's online [Complaint Assistant](#) or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). The FTC enters complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to more than 2,000 civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad. The FTC's website provides [free information on a variety of consumer topics](#). Like the FTC on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and [subscribe to press releases](#) for the latest FTC news and resources.

### PRESS RELEASE REFERENCE:

[Operadores de un esquema dirigido contra consumidores hispanos sujetos a una prohibición de participar en el sistema de telemarketingo bajo un acuerdo resolutorio con la FTC](#)

[Court Blocks Telemarketer That Pitched High-End Merchandise to Hispanic Consumers, Then Charged Them Up-Front Fees for Worthless Products](#)

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