

## ChatGPT Version 5.2

January 12, 2026

You said:

I am looking for information about a religious official in Barcelona in the late fourteenth century. The name of this person is Johan Ferdinand de Aranda. The person might also be found by the name Joan Fernan de Aranda. This person was recommended by Violant to the Pope in a letter of January 24, 1387. I hope that this person might appear in scholarly sources, but I will follow any leads you can find. Can you find any further information about this person in scholarly literature or elsewhere?

ChatGPT said:

I'll search for Johan/Joan Fernan(d) de Aranda in late-1300s Barcelona sources, then trace the specific 24 Jan 1387 letter (editions/regesta) and any prosopographical or ecclesiastical references that mention him.

Thought for 4m 6s

What you're calling "**Johan Ferdinand de Aranda**" is *very likely* the Latin/curial form **Johannes Fernandi de Aranda**, i.e. **Juan/Joan Fernández de Aranda** ("Fernandi" = *son of Fernando*, not a second given name). That exact person *does* show up in solid scholarly work tied to **Queen Violant** and papal/curial lobbying.

**The best match I can document: Juan (Joan) Fernández de Aranda, jurist + cathedral aspirant**

María Teresa Ferrer i Mallol's prosopographical/biographical study of **Francisco de Aranda** (the well-known court insider who later entered Porta Coeli) explicitly identifies Francisco's brother:

- "**Tenía un hermano llamado Juan, que era doctor en leyes...**" and this Juan was seeking a **canony and a pabordía (prebend/administrative benefice)** in the **cathedral of Tarragona in 1389**.
- The same passage adds that **King Joan I and Queen Violant actively pushed his promotion**, and that by **late 1392** the effort still hadn't succeeded *despite many supplications to the pope and cardinals*.

Crucially, Ferrer i Mallol anchors this in *precise archival citations* (so you can follow the paper trail in ACA):

- **ACA, Cancelleria registers: reg. 1956, ff. 65v–68v** (1389-05-13) and **reg. 2038, ff. 11r–12r** (1389-05-16), plus further curial lobbying in **reg. 2039** (e.g., **f. 26v** in 1390-10-13; **ff. 133v–134v** in 1392).
- Those 1390 entries are said to be requests to various curial figures supporting “**Juan Fernández de Aranda**.”

### **Why this fits your “recommended by Violant to the pope” note (Jan 24, 1387)**

Even though Ferrer i Mallol highlights the **1389–1392** push for Tarragona specifically, the pattern is exactly what you describe: **Violant sponsoring “Juan/Joan Fernández de Aranda” at the papal court for ecclesiastical advancement**. If your **24 Jan 1387** letter contains a form like *Johannes Fernandi de Aranda*, that slots perfectly into this same individual and the same type of advocacy.

### **A Barcelona-relevant lead inside the same scholarship**

Ferrer i Mallol also notes a **Barcelona notarial record** connected to the Aranda brothers’ family administration:

- **Arxiu Històric de Protocols de Barcelona**, notary **Joan Nadal**, manual **Sept–Oct 1390, f. 29v** (power of attorney by Francisco, in his own name and his brother Juan’s, concerning their deceased brother’s administration).

That doesn’t by itself make Juan a Barcelona cleric—but it does put him in documented business/legal action in **Barcelona**, and it’s exactly the sort of hook that can lead to more identifications (titles, residences, networks, witnesses).

### **What I’d do next (practical research steps)**

1. **Re-open the exact 24 Jan 1387 letter** and check whether the Latin is *Johannes Fernandi de Aranda / Johannes Ferdinandi / Joannes Ferrandi* etc. If it’s “Fernandi,” treat it as **Fernández** first, not “Ferdinand.”
2. Pull the **ACA Cancelleria** entries Ferrer i Mallol cites (regs **1956, 2038, 2039**) because those often spell out:
  - his clerical status (clericus? presbyter?),
  - any degrees (“doctor in legibus”),
  - the **benefice being sought**,
  - and **who** is being asked to help at the curia.

3. Use the **Joan Nadal (AHPB)** instrument as a prosopographical node: notarial acts frequently include **full styles** (e.g., “mossèn,” “doctor,” “canonge,” “beneficiat”), plus **witness lists** that can connect him to Barcelona ecclesiastical circles.

#### **Working identification (with confidence level)**

- **High confidence:** your person is **Juan/Joan Fernández de Aranda, doctor in laws**, brother of **Francisco de Aranda**, and someone whose **advancement was promoted by Joan I + Violant at the papal curia**.
- **Still open:** whether he held an actual **Barcelona** benefice/office (as opposed to being *active in Barcelona* and *petitioned from Barcelona*). The sources above give you the strongest route to prove that one way or the other.

If you paste the wording (even just the line with his name + the requested office) from the **24 Jan 1387** letter, I can help you normalize the name form precisely and map it onto the Tarragona/curia dossier Ferrer i Mallol outlines.

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.