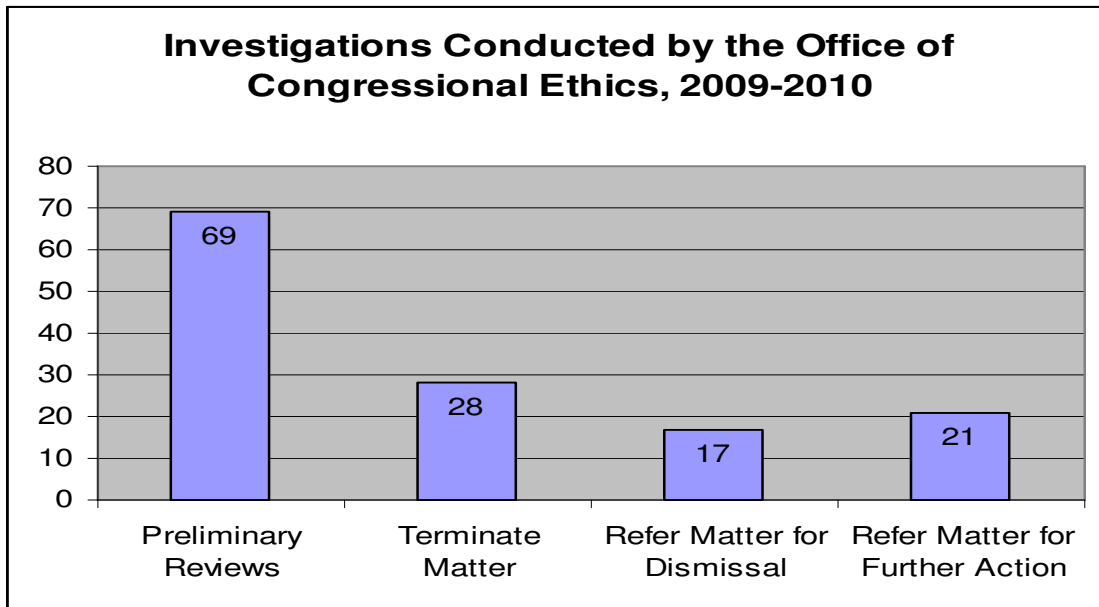
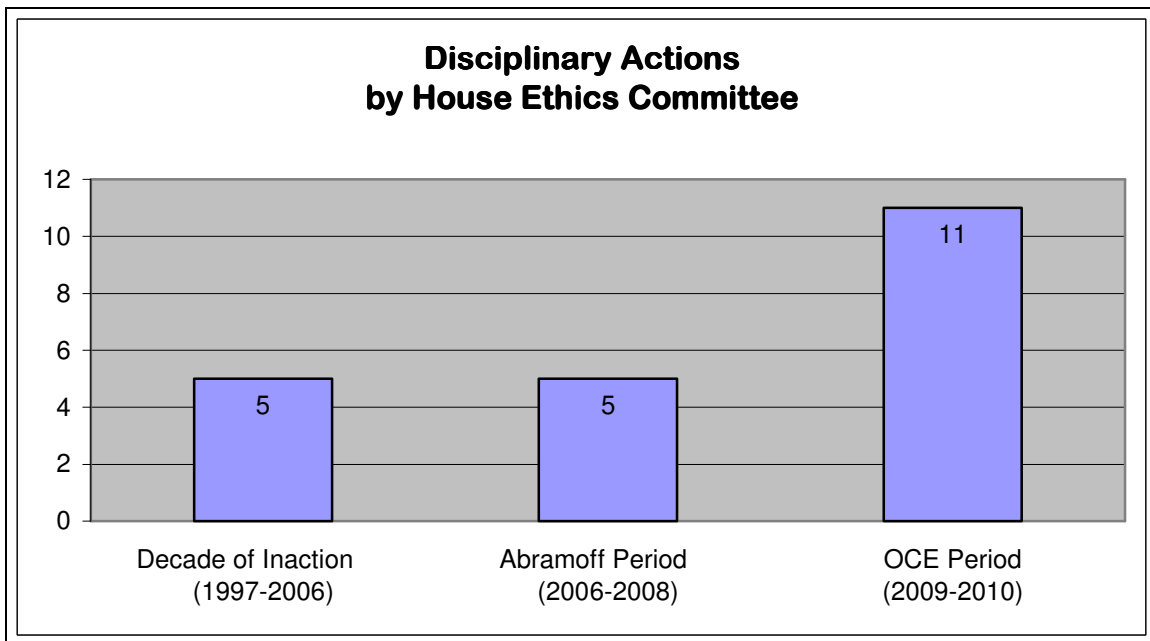




## Congressional Ethics Enforcement: From Decade of Inaction to OCE Period of Accountability



Source: OCE Third Quarter 2010 Report (Nov. 16, 2010)



“Disciplinary actions” include formal penalties issued by the House Committee on Standards and Official Conduct (referred to as the “House ethics committee”) as well as informal agreements made with the committee to correct misconduct, such as reimbursement for improper travel expenses, even with no actual finding of guilt.

From 1997 through 2008, prior to creation of the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE), most matters before the House ethics committee were kept confidential, making estimates of disciplinary actions difficult to ascertain other than through news stories. The OCE period not only supplemented ethics enforcement with the work of a semi-independent agency, it also established unprecedented transparency of ethics cases.

The disciplinary actions documented during the “Decade of Inaction” includes actions against: Reps. Jay Kim (R-Cal.), James Traflicant (D-Ohio), Earl Hillard (D-Ala.), Bob Shuster (R-Pa.), and Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.).

The “Abramoff Period” includes actions against: Reps. Tom DeLay (R-Texas), Nick Smith (R-Mich.), Candice Miller (R-Mich.), Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) and Tom Feeney (R-Fla.).

The “OCE Period” includes actions against: Reps. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Donald Payne (D-NJ), Carolyn Kirkpatrick (D-Mich.), Donna Christensen (D-MD), Charlie Rangel (D-NY), Rangel (second finding), congressional staff Dawn Kelly Mobley, and Carib News Foundation employees Karl Rodney, Faye Rodney and Patricia Lewis.

Sources: Public Citizen (2010); “Decade of Inaction” compiled by Common Cause (2006).